

An Hero.

The NATIONAL WOOL GROWER



Volume XXVIII Number 3

MARCH, 1938

\$50,000,000 Wool Loan

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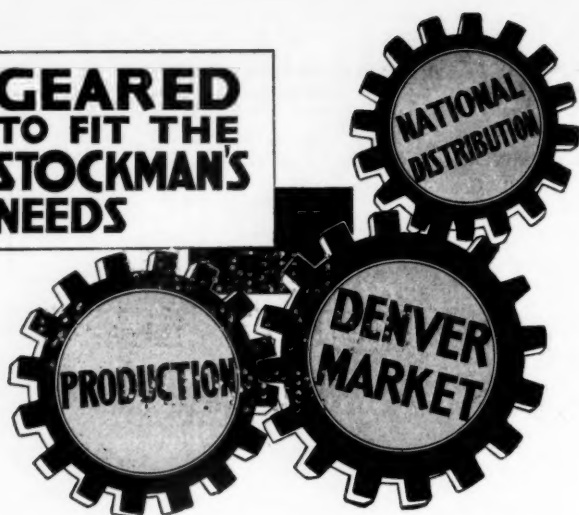
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March 1938

NUMBER 3

The National Wool Grower

Published Monthly at 509 McCormick Building, Salt Lake City, Utah,
by the National Wool Growers Association Co., Inc.

F. R. Marshall, Editor

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SUBSCRIPTION RATES—Payment of dues in the National Wool Growers Association includes a year's subscription to the National Wool Grower. Dues and subscriptions are received along with state association dues by the secretaries shown for the following states: Arizona, California, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, Texas, Washington and Wyoming. To non-members in the United States and Canada \$1.50 per year; foreign, \$2.00 per year.

Entered as Second Class Matter, January, 1913, at the Post Office at Salt Lake City, Utah, under the Act of March 3, 1879. Acceptance for mailing at special rate of postage provided for in Section 1103, Act of October 3, 1917, authorized August 23, 1918.

SHEEP AND WOOL AFFAIRS

Washington, D. C.
March 8, 1938

At Washington

THE CALENDAR and my expense account say I've been here a month, but it seems like a year. Very little has been nailed down yet but those representing the wool growers still are on their feet and have better than a fair chance of accomplishing some things worth while.

I came down first to testify before the Senate Finance Committee in opposition to an amendment that would legalize the use of carpet wool wastes for clothing purposes without payment of duty; also the use of carpet wool noils by payment of 14 cents duty instead of 23 cents as we claim the law requires. The Finance Committee is to report the bill out on Tuesday.

This case was given some considerable attention in the issue of the Wool Grower for June, 1937.

Loans on Wool

Somewhat to our surprise, we found that the matter of loans on wool, through the Commodity Credit Corporation, was quite active. It had been opened here in January by James G. Brown and Byron Wilson, but started afresh on February 16 during the meeting of the Executive Committee of the National Wool Marketing Corporation. When approached by representatives of the corporation, I found that the language of our convention resolution on the subject plainly committed officers of the National Wool Growers Association to the loan plan. When President Rich arrived on February 21, he directed that we should proceed in accordance with the action of the convention.

On February 23, along with Messrs. Wilson, Fawcett, Ward and Sargent, we met with the directors of the Commodity Credit Corporation at the offices of the Reconstruction Finance Corporation. Details of warehousing and appraising clips on which government loans might be made were discussed but little was said as to the amount of such loan. Nor has there been any official expression on that point as this is written. I hope that the whole deal may be settled and that the Commodity Credit Corporation will issue an official statement of the terms of the loan in time to be printed in this issue of the Wool Grower.

It is very plain that unless such a loan is offered at a level to show that the government has confidence in wool values, clips are likely to be sold at absurdly and ruinously low prices.

These loans should not be confused with the usual consignment advance. In the first place, they are "non-recourse." That is, the borrower is assured that he will never be called on, if the wool should sell below the loan, to make up the difference. In the second place, the borrower gets the benefit of final sales made above the amount of the loan and the expense of carrying and selling the wool.

Trade Agreements

The Association's brief opposing the reduction of duties

upon manufactures of wool was filed on February 26. It is printed on page 27 of this issue.

The oral presentations are scheduled to start before the Committee for Reciprocity Information on March 14. Our committee, along with a Texas delegation headed by Vice President Wardlaw that was here most of last week, has called on a large number of Senators and Congressmen, all of whom appear to oppose any reductions in duties in the wool schedule. The trouble is that they have no chance to vote on the matter.

On February 24, Senator O'Mahoney, with sixteen other Senators from western states, discussed the case with Secretary Hull. On March 3, the Texas wool growers, accompanied by Senators Connally and Shepherd, several Congressmen, and others, again visited the Secretary of State. He advised them that no agreement had been projected that would directly involve wool duties. On March 6, President Roosevelt conferred with Secretaries Hull and Wallace regarding the negotiation of a trade agreement with Australia.

Closer examination of the proposal to negotiate further with Canada brings some encouragement. It is not proposed to consider duties on frozen lamb. Canada can export some lambs to us if the present 7-cent duty is lowered. New Zealand and Australia, being favored nations, could ship under the same duties, but exports from those countries must be frozen and frozen lamb or beef is not on the announced list of the articles on which the duties are up for trading. Hearings on the Canadian agreement are scheduled to open on April 4 before the committee of the Department of State.

The Farm Bill

The new farm bill became law on February 16. I have found no one who has read all of it or can readily present its salient features. The McNary-Boileau amendment to curb increased production of milk and livestock on lands receiving benefit payment was eliminated. The crop control features are directed only at corn, cotton, wheat, rice, and tobacco. Already there is talk of voting more money or levying excise taxes to furnish funds for larger payments under the soil conservation program.

Reorganization

A modified form of the Byrnes bill came to the Senate floor on March 1. The debate is peppery and the bill is opposed by most of the Senators who opposed the President's plan for reorganization of the Supreme Court.

It is by no means certain that any bill will be passed to empower the President to reorganize government bureaus and departments. If there is a law, it will probably be a comparatively harmless one. Senator George has offered

an amendment to prevent the transfer of any activities of the Department of Agriculture to any other department.

Fabric Labeling

Unfortunately the Wool Grower has not earlier explained that most of what was sought last year through the Capper-Schwartz-Martin bills was obtained on October 26 last. At that time the Federal Trade Commission put out rules calling for the labeling of rayon content of all fabrics containing that fiber.

A few weeks ago the Commission went further and announced that a conference would be held on March 8 for preparation of rules to govern the labeling of all fabrics made of wool. It is understood that the Commission will propose rules that will call for labeling to show the percentage of reclaimed (reworked) wool. Meantime the Senate and House committees are delaying legislation until it can be known what changes of law are required in the light of the final action of the Federal Trade Commission on wool fabrics.

The National Association of Wool Manufacturers at first announced that it would not recognize or be represented at the conference. Today, however, it looks as though some of the mills may appear in support of the labeling proposed and also that the manufacturers' association may have a committee present.

Committees to Study Fabric Labeling Rules

THE hearing on trade practice rules for the wool industry before the Federal Trade Commission on March 8, at which 75 representatives of manufacturers, producers, consumers and textile workers were in attendance, developed into a too informal discussion, from which it soon became apparent that nothing definite could result. Therefore, on the suggestion of Col. Chas. F. H. Johnson, president of the Botany Woolen Mills, it was decided to name committees to study various angles of the fabric labeling question.

These committees, whose number and personnel have not been announced, but who are composed of members selected by the various interests and not by the Federal Trade Commission, are to report the results of their work to the Trade Practice Board of the Federal Trade Commission on March 22, and a week later a second conference with the Federal Trade Commission of all interests will be held when

it is hoped that agreement may be reached and the rules decided upon.

At the conference on March 8, Secretary Marshall of the National Wool Growers Association presented the trade practice rules suggested by Julius Forstmann, president of Forstmann Woolen Company, Passaic, New Jersey, and that unscrewed the lid to a barrel of pent-up feelings.

The rules proposed by Mr. Forstmann, which were the only ones presented at the conference, would require the identification and disclosure of shoddy or reworked wool as well as cotton, rayon and other fibers and substitutes. They received the support of the wool growers, who, in addition to Mr. Marshall, were represented by J. B. Wilson of Wyoming, President Charles Redd of the National Wool Marketing Corporation, and W. R. Ogg of the American Farm Bureau. The Forstmann rules also had the strong endorsement of the consumers' group, headed by Julia K. Jaffray, chairman of the Economics Division of the New York City Federation of Women's Clubs and Roberta Lawson, president of the General Federation of

Top Futures

There has been no progress on S.3105, the O'Mahoney bill to provide for supervision and regulation of futures trading in wool tops. It is less than a week since the breaking of the Senate jam over the antilynching bill and there has been little opportunity to get consideration of other than measures that are especially privileged. It is expected that the bill will readily pass and it might be reached quite soon.

Lamb Prices

This much is not Washington news. Reports, however, show an increase of almost 2 cents in the lamb market between February 21 and March 5. Carcass values strengthened and the market receipts were unexpectedly light. Many of the talent are beginning to claim that the government estimate of over six million lambs on feed on January 1 was too high. Certainly they are not coming to market fast enough to indicate the presence of any such supply. If they do not show up much faster at the markets at the 9-cent price, it must seem that the supply is quite short. It is reported that the California crop will start late. There may yet be enough of a squeeze to start 1938 lambs off in good fashion and to start shippers of other states to hoping that the "seasonal declines" of May and June will not be too severe, as they were in 1937.

F. R. Marshall

Women's Clubs.

Francis J. Gorman, president of the United Textile Workers, also joined the supporters of the Forstmann proposals.

The manufacturers, who, as a whole, do not favor compulsory labeling of any kind, but feel that permissive labeling of woolen fabrics to show the content of cotton, rayon and other fibers would be beneficial, were not at all hesitant about expressing their opposition to the rules under discussion. Their spokesmen included H. M. Ashby of the Kenwood Mills, Sylvan Strouck, Millard D. Brown of the Continental Mills, Lewis A. Hird of Samuel Hird and Sons, and Benjamin Harrison Lerner of the National Association of Skirt Manufacturers. Other members of the manufacturers' delegation, which was large, in spite of the previous statement that that branch of the industry would not be represented, were Vice President Franklin D. Hobbs, Secretary Walter Humphreys and Edward Wilkinson.

The outcome of the March 22 and 29 meetings will be reported in the April issue of the Wool Grower.

Approval of \$50,000,000 Wool Loan

Announced By Secretary Wallace

THE following official statement was released at noon on Saturday, March 12, 1938, from the offices of the Agricultural Adjustment Administration:

Release—Immediate March 12, 1938

Secretary of Agriculture Henry A. Wallace announced today that, in accordance with his recommendation, a \$50,000,000 wool loan program for wool producers on their 1937 and 1938 production has been approved by Commodity Credit Corporation and the President. The loans, which are to be made available in accordance with the provisions of the Agricultural Adjustment Act of 1938, are intended particularly to aid wool producers in marketing their 1938 clip.

The loans will be available to all producers; including, under approved regulations, producer-owned pools. The loans on the principal classes of wool will be made at between 15 and 22 cents a pound on a grease basis at Boston. The loans are expected to average approximately 17.5 to 18 cents per pound grease basis to producers. The approved program authorizes loans on 250 million pounds of wool. Producers may obtain loans on wool stored at eastern and western concentration points with appropriate differentials based on Boston. Loans will be made only after wool has been classified and warehoused under supervision of the Commodity Credit Corporation.

AAA officials who analyzed the loan proposal before it was recommended by Secretary Wallace pointed out that, although no specific loan rates for wool were authorized in the Agricultural Adjustment Act of 1938, the proposed rates are comparable to the maximum rates authorized in the Act for cotton,

wheat, and corn. The loan schedule on wool represents approximately 75 per cent of the pre-war parity price of wool.

AAA officials emphasize that the loan is not a price-fixing loan, but a marketing loan designed to protect wool producers against the effect of unfavorable conditions in the wool industry while the 1938 clip is moving to market. They said study of the wool situation indicates that present wool prices are unduly depressed and that the rates established would enable producers to market their wool in an orderly manner and at better prices than they would receive if they had to sell all their wool at shearing time.

In view of the current situation in the wool producing and wool manufacturing industry, the wool loans are naturally on a substantially higher basis than would be available to wool producers through their usual credit channels. With these loans a wool producer can obtain enough money to pay his current expenses and at the same time take advantage of any better prices during the remainder of the marketing season.

The loans are to be made for a ten-month period, with the final maturity date set at May 31, 1939. The loans will bear interest at 4 per cent and will be without recourse.

Although loans will be made for a ten-month period, producers may sell the wool at any time by repaying the loans and accrued storage and handling charges.

Inspectors of the Commodity Credit Corporation will classify wool on which loans are made and the corporation will designate approved warehouses in which the wool may be stored. These warehouse designations necessarily will be in areas where wool is stored in substantial quantities and will not include

all warehouses because of excessive administrative expenses which would be involved.

The official regulations and the necessary loan forms will be prepared and made available by the Commodity Credit Corporation.

The above official statement was handed to representatives of wool growers' organizations by officials of the Agricultural Adjustment Administration and the Commodity Credit Corporation, who have been cooperating for two weeks in working out a plan of making marketing loans on wool.

It was recognized that because of the unusual conditions now existing in the wool market many growers might be forced to sell wools in a way that would result in depressing current prices to unreasonably low levels. The growers were informed that the representatives of the government were willing to arrange for loans in amounts to show confidence in wool values.

At the same time the following additional statement and schedule was issued. This schedule describes the main classes of wools produced in the range territory and shows the Boston price on the clean basis, which will be used as a basis for making the loans:

The following schedule is based on wool landed at Boston. Wool is to be in warehouses acceptable to the corporation, weighed, classified and appraised and warehouse receipts issued. The appraisal and classification are to be paid for by Commodity Credit Corporation. Appropriate average differentials covering rail freight are to be made for wool located at points other than Boston. The loan schedule for fleece wool and for wool produced in central and southern California will be five cents a clean pound less than the following schedule:

| CLASSIFICATION | Loan Schedule on Scoured Wool at Boston Cents Per Pound |
|---|--|
| FINE WOOLS | |
| Class I—Very Choice Wools | 59 |
| a—Delaine | |
| b—Graded Territory Combing (Strictly staple) | |
| Class II—Choice Wools | 57 |
| a—Choice 12-months' Texas including original bags; bulk combing length | |
| b—Graded Territory; Choice French combing length including some staple | |
| c—Original Bag Territory; bulk sta- ple length including some French combing | |
| Class III—Average to Good Wool | 56 |
| a—12-months' Texas including ori- ginal bags | |
| b—Graded Territory; French comb- ing length | |
| c—Original Bag Territory; Good French combing length | |
| Class IV—Fair to Average Wool | 54 |
| a—12-months' Texas including ori- ginal bags | |
| b—Graded Territory; short to aver- age French combing length | |
| c—Original Bag Territory; Average French combing length | |
| Class V—Poor and Inferior | 50 |
| a—Original bag bulk clothing and some stubby | |
| b—Graded clothing and stubby mixed | |
| HALF-BLOOD WOOLS | |
| Class X | 52 |
| a—Graded Territory; strictly staple length | |
| Class XI | 51 |
| a—Graded Territory; average comb- ing length | |
| b—Original bag Territory; mostly half-blood may include some 3/8 or some fine | |
| c—Graded Territory Clothing 3/8 BLOOD WOOLS | |
| Class XII | 48 |
| a—Graded Territory | |
| QUARTER BLOOD | |
| Class XIII | 44 |
| a—Graded Territory | |
| Class XIV—Low Quarter Blood | 35 |
| Common and Braid | |

It is expected that these loans will be made in the first instance by any bank or loan company wishing to participate in the business. As the official statement shows, the Commodity Credit Corporation agrees to later take over such paper without recourse from the agency that makes the original loan.

It is understood that wools will be concentrated at convenient places, the location of which will be announced later. When wools are in the warehouses the appraisers employed by the

Commodity Credit Corporation will examine them to determine the amount of the loan to be made on each particular clip.

It is also understood that borrowers under this plan will not be expected to obligate themselves to participate in any future programs for control of wool production.

It is important that wool growers who are interested in these loans should understand that this is not a stabilization or price-pegging arrangement. Neither should the loans be considered as advances. Once the loan is made the grower is assured that he will not be required to make up any deficiency in the remotely possible event that the wool should finally be sold for less than the amount of the loan. Also, if the wool is finally disposed of at a price above the amount of the loan, the difference will accrue to the grower with deductions only for storage, carrying charges, and interest on the loan.

Arrangements as to how the wool shall finally be sold have not yet been perfected.

Livestock Freight Rates Increased 5 Per Cent

THE decision of the Interstate Commerce Commission in Ex Parte 123, the 15 per cent case, was issued on March 8. Briefly stated, it gave the railroads a 5 per cent increase on farm and forest products (including livestock and animal products) and 10 per cent on virtually everything else that moves by rail. These increases, however, are inclusive of raises granted on steel, coke and many other "heavy" commodities last fall. Therefore, on some of the rates raised in the autumn there will be little or no additional increase.

Bituminous coal, lignite, coke and iron ore were excluded specifically from any further increase and the increase on anthracite was limited to 10 cents per ton, or approximately 5.9 per cent.

Fresh milk and cream are also exempted from any increase.

The new rates may be put into effect by carriers on ten days' notice, but they

must be in force by July 31.

Based on 1936 shipments, the 5 per cent increase in the rate on livestock will add about \$3,000,000 annually to the freight bill of the livestock industry. The industry, of course, is not in a position at present to stand additional financial burdens. However, in considering the outcome of this case, it must be remembered that an increase in freight rates apparently was on the cards for this time, and in keeping the increase, so far as it applies to their products, at 5 per cent, the efforts of livestock and other agricultural organizations and public utilities commissions have been well repaid. And as one commentator on the decision said, the railroads have been agitating for an increase in freight rates since 1934 and such agitation has kept shippers more or less jittery and uncertain on that score, but now that the railroads have won out, at least partially, the freight rate question should be quiescent for some time to come.

With the exception of Commissioner Mahaffie who held the increase insufficient, all of the members of the Commission concurred in the decision. The opinion of the majority of the Commission was that "the present revenues of the applicants are inadequate . . . under honest, economical and efficient management, to provide in the public interest adequate and efficient railway transportation service at the lowest cost consistent with furnishing such service," but that the flat 15 per cent increase was larger than was reasonably necessary and would be "such a deterrent to traffic as to stifle movement." Warning was also given the carriers of the need for financial reconstruction on their part to put their operations on a sound basis.

The increase in freight rates is not looked upon as a solution of the present predicament of the carriers and the next move in the solution of their problem is expected to come out of the conference called by the President at the White House in the week of March 14. Those invited to attend the conference include members of Congress, the Interstate Commerce Commission and railroad and labor leaders.

Around the

RANGE COUNTRY

The notes on weather conditions, appearing under the names of the various states in Around the Range Country, are furnished by J. Cecil Alter of the U. S. Weather Bureau and based upon reports and publications for the month of February.

The Wool Grower welcomes and desires communications from interested readers in any part of the country for this department of the Wool Grower and also invites comment and opinions upon questions relating to the sheep industry and of importance and significance to wool growers.

WESTERN TEXAS

This was a much better month, especially during the last two weeks, as temperatures were above normal, favoring livestock and forage growth; and the last half of the month was wet, with considerable rain, amounting to about four times the normal at Amarillo.

ARIZONA

The month was mostly mild, excepting the third week, which was quite cold and inclement. Moderate precipitation has occurred, but more is needed over the lower country. The northern ranges are mostly good, and livestock are doing well as a rule.

Thatcher (Graham County)

Sheep were on pasture 90 days prior to February 1 because of lack of feed on the range. We went back on February 1 and found green feed fair. At present (March 2) feed is better than the last two years at this time. No sheep are on feed now. There is no stacked hay here; baled hay runs from \$11 to \$15 a ton, but it will come down soon.

Our winter losses were reduced because the sheep were on pastures.

Coyotes are as thick as they can stick. Nobody kills them.

A. N. Brimhall

NEW MEXICO

Temperatures were mostly mild, and

favorable for livestock and range interests, though the second week was cold, and caused some shrinkages. Much more precipitation is needed generally over the state, for spring ranges. Sheltered lambing is progressing favorably; feed is holding out pretty well. Most livestock are in fair to good condition.

COLORADO

Mild weather with rather generous amounts of precipitation was favorable for livestock, except over some of the eastern portion. Winter grains and ranges are in good shape, except some eastern grain is poor for the want of winter snow cover. Livestock in the Arkansas Valley showed some shrinkage during the cold weather of the third week.

Jefferson (Park County)

Feed has been good on the range since the first of January, better than it was last year, as we have had a lot of moisture the past three months.

No alfalfa is grown in this district, but native hay is selling at \$8 a ton in the stack.

The size of the breeding bands is about the same as in 1937; there has been no expansion in this locality. About the usual number of ewe lambs were retained last fall for flock replacements.

Coyotes are being held down here, as government trappers worked harder than usual last year.

So far as I know there is very little killing of deer on the summer range by sheepherders. They prefer mutton.

B. S. Spindle

Norwood (San Miguel County)

The first part of the winter was fine for stock. February weather has been like our usual March weather, wet, cold and windy. About the usual number of ewes are being fed this

winter. Nearly everyone feeds a little cake or corn around here. Alfalfa hay is from \$7 to \$8 a ton in the stack (March 4).

About the normal number of ewes are bred to lamb this spring, but a few more of them will be lambing in April than usual. Owing to good weather conditions, winter losses are smaller this year than last.

I haven't heard of any cases of forced liquidation of sheep outfits.

I think there is very little game killed out of season by sheepherders.

I wish there was some way of getting more of the wool growers interested in association work. Too few of us have to carry on the work. It is getting to the point where "united we stand, divided we fall." The wool and lamb advertising work must go on and the money to keep it up will have to come from the wool growers.

F. W. Stokes

Gypsum (Eagle County)

We have had some pretty rough weather since February 1. It has been cold and we've had quite a lot of snow. However, sheep have done real well, as the feed on the range is better than it has been for three or four years and it hasn't been necessary to feed so much hay and grain as in previous years. Hay can be had for \$8 a ton in the stack (February 25).

There are about the same number of ewes to lamb this year as in the past two. Winter losses have been light, but losses through coyotes have doubled in the last year. They are increasing rapidly as none have been caught during the past three years. I think a good bounty on pups and grown coyotes would soon get them.

I haven't heard of any liquidation of sheep outfits around here.

I do not believe there is much, if any,

game killed by shearers on the national forests.

Claude Stewart

Hotchkiss
(Delta County)

The winter has been very mild and open here. However, there has been quite a bit of moisture, so much so that the pastures have been of little value in feeding. There is more range feed now (February 25) than in the past several years, due to the fact that there are fewer sheep in the country. Alfalfa hay is selling from \$6 to \$7.50 a ton, but less of it is being fed this winter.

There are about 10 per cent fewer ewes bred to lamb this spring than a year ago. Ewe losses are the lightest for several years.

There is more liquidation of sheep outfits than a year ago.

Poisoning and trapping are keeping the coyotes down. However, here our greatest losses are from bear. They kill a lot more sheep and lambs for us than the coyotes.

There is very little game killed out of season by shearers. I do not know of any the past two or three years.

Paul W. Swisher

Kremmling
(Grand County)

More snow is on the range (March 7) than for the past four or five years. Sheep are all on feed and losses have been just normal. There is not much alfalfa hay in these parts; other hay is about \$6 a ton.

We have had a Biological Survey hunter at work here and coyote numbers have been reduced.

W. J. Traber

Sunbeam
(Moffat County)

The weather is warmer and there is less snow (March 5) than at this time in the last four years. Range feed conditions have been better this year and less feeding has been done than for three years past. Winter losses are smaller than in 1936-37.

The breeding bands are about the same size as they were last year.

Since fur has become so cheap, there is little incentive for private hunting

of coyotes and they are increasing here.

J. A. Tisdell

UTAH

Abnormally warm weather prevailed, with frequent precipitation, mostly rain, and amounting to normal depths in some sections. Much of the state could do with more moisture, but forage and livestock have held up in very good shape nearly everywhere. Practically no range feeding was reported, and corral stuff did not consume a great deal of feed because of the mild, open weather.

Garrison
(Millard County)

The weather has been ideal for sheep this winter. Feed is now getting scarce (March 2), but we are having some wonderful rains, with plenty of snow in the mountains, which should bring spring feed above the average. There were no sheep fed on the range in this section this year. Alfalfa hay sold at \$7 a ton in the stack.

The number of ewes bred to lamb this spring is about 10 per cent above that of last year. Winter losses have been much lighter than in 1937 and the wool is in much better condition than a year ago. There has been no liquidation of sheep in this vicinity.

My herders do not kill game while on the forest, and I believe there are very few killed by other outfits. My herders like to eat lamb.

Due to the fact that there has been very little trapping done in this district, coyotes are more numerous than they used to be.

L. E. Heckethorn
Parowan
(Iron County)

Weather and feed have been excellent, just enough snow to keep sheep from trailing to water. Sap is up in the brush. Fewer sheep need hay and grain than usual at this time (February 26), but hay can be purchased at \$7 to \$8 a ton in the stack.

On account of losses last spring and foreclosures, the breeding bands are smaller this year than last. Winter losses have been much lighter than usual, however.

There is still some liquidation going on, but not so much as in previous years.

It is difficult to determine whether or not coyotes are increasing here. The price of fur has been too low to interest many independent trappers.

Mark Gudmundsen

NEVADA

Every week brought its more or less copious rains or snows, and the month persisted warmer than usual. Range forage and livestock conditions are fairly good, but there has been much less snow than usual. Mountain highways have been closed by deep snow, and feed is becoming short in some sections. Range sheep have done well.

Reno
(Washoe County)

Feed conditions are reported very good on the ranges and livestock are in good condition. While we have had continuous rain and snow for the past 24 days, ever since January 31 in fact, there has been no very cold weather during the entire winter. South of here in Minden, Gardnerville and Yerington, the snow is still (March 1) very deep, but the highways are all open and in good condition. East of Winnemucca and also in Elko, Eureka and Austin, there is not much snow.

There are not so many ewes in the state as a whole as there were last year, so the number of bred ewes is below that of 1937. No severe losses have been recorded during the winter, so the general average will probably be much better than last year's.

Very few cases of liquidation have been reported; in fact, none except a few changes through the bank receivers.

G. W. Callahan

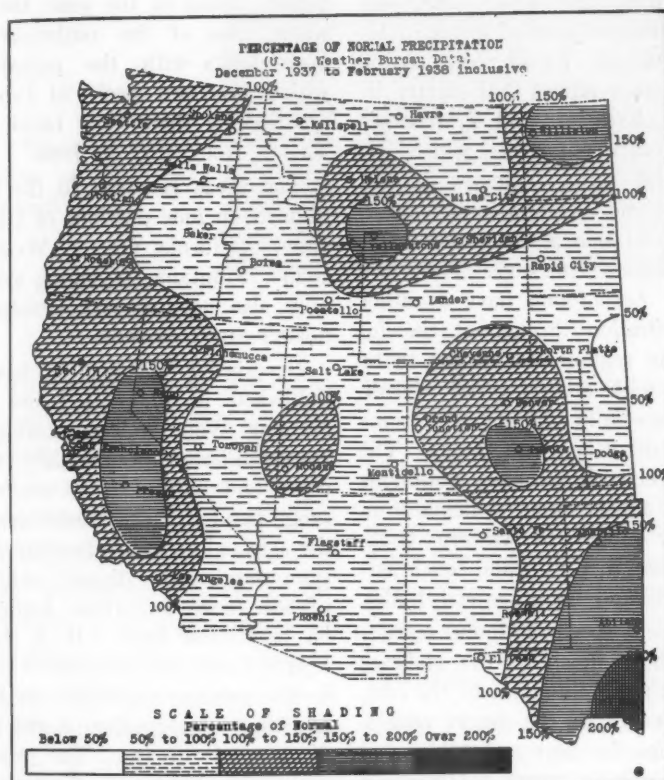
CALIFORNIA

This was a mild month, excepting only the third week which was abnormally cold, though no livestock losses resulted. Rains and snows have been frequent and rather heavy, giving most of the lower country a good soaking, and most of the mountains heavy snow

(Continued on page 38)

The Winter

MOISTURE RECORD



Precipitation on Western Livestock Ranges During December, 1937, and January and February, 1938, With Departures from Normal for Three Months and for Six Months.
(In Inches)

| | Normal 3-Months' Precipitation | Actual 3-Months' Precipitation | Excess (+), or Deficiency (-) 3 Months | Excess (+), or Deficiency (-) 6 Months |
|------------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|--|
| Washington— | | | | |
| Seattle | 14.43 | 15.12 | +0.69 | +3.67 |
| Spokane | 6.12 | 6.10 | -0.02 | +0.36 |
| Walla Walla | 5.78 | 5.66 | -0.12 | -0.79 |
| Oregon— | | | | |
| Portland | 18.68 | 26.75 | +8.07 | +11.92 |
| Pendleton | 4.74 | 4.23 | -0.51 | -1.52 |
| Baker | 5.18 | 4.24 | -0.94 | -0.39 |
| Roseburg | 15.14 | 18.19 | +3.05 | +7.04 |
| California— | | | | |
| Redding | 19.08 | 25.67 | +6.59 | +16.31 |
| San Francisco | 12.34 | 14.87 | +2.53 | +1.97 |
| Fresno | 4.61 | 8.64 | +4.03 | +2.48 |
| Los Angeles | 8.80 | 12.82 | +4.02 | +1.98 |
| Nevada— | | | | |
| Winnemucca | 3.02 | 3.34 | +0.32 | +0.25 |
| Reno | 3.70 | 6.23 | +2.53 | +2.62 |
| Tonopah | 1.10 | 0.89 | -0.21 | +0.12 |
| Arizona— | | | | |
| Phoenix | 2.57 | 1.48 | -1.09 | -1.72 |
| Flagstaff | 7.18 | 6.89 | -0.29 | -2.69 |
| New Mexico— | | | | |
| Santa Fe | 2.16 | 1.38 | -0.78 | -0.61 |
| Roswell | 1.76 | 2.25 | +0.49 | +0.33 |
| Texas— | | | | |
| Amarillo | 2.02 | 3.34 | +1.32 | -0.51 |
| Abilene | 3.31 | 5.61 | +2.30 | +0.77 |
| Del Rio | 1.79 | 5.61 | +3.82 | +1.53 |
| El Paso | 2.95 | 2.25 | -0.70 | -0.84 |
| Montana— | | | | |
| Helena | 2.30 | 2.41 | +0.11 | +0.17 |
| Kalispell | 4.13 | 3.01 | -1.12 | -1.75 |
| Havre | 1.84 | 1.14 | -0.70 | -1.42 |
| Miles City | 1.78 | 0.99 | -0.79 | -1.26 |
| Williston, N. D. | 1.53 | 2.36 | +0.83 | +1.60 |
| Idaho— | | | | |
| Boise | 4.74 | 4.43 | -0.31 | -0.08 |
| Pocatello | 3.87 | 3.82 | -0.05 | +0.70 |
| Utah— | | | | |
| Salt Lake | 4.25 | 3.07 | -1.18 | -0.74 |
| Fillmore | 3.75 | 4.00 | +0.25 | -0.56 |
| Castle Dale | 2.06 | 1.79 | -0.27 | -1.08 |
| Monticello | 4.30 | 2.69 | -1.61 | -3.87 |
| Modena | 2.63 | 3.23 | +0.60 | -0.51 |
| Wyoming— | | | | |
| Yellowstone | 2.15 | 3.71 | +1.56 | +0.50 |
| Sheridan | 2.19 | 2.40 | +0.21 | -0.61 |
| Lander | 1.87 | 1.78 | -0.09 | -1.30 |
| Cheyenne | 1.61 | 2.33 | +0.72 | +0.66 |
| Rapid City, S. D. | 1.37 | 1.34 | -0.03 | -1.63 |
| No. Platte, Neb. | 1.45 | 0.61 | -0.84 | -1.51 |
| Colorado— | | | | |
| Denver | 2.42 | 2.04 | +0.38 | -0.59 |
| Pueblo | 1.28 | 2.43 | +1.15 | +0.40 |
| Grand Junction | 1.81 | 2.52 | +0.71 | +0.56 |
| Dodge City, Kan. | 1.75 | 1.34 | -0.41 | -2.29 |

A COMPARATIVELY mild winter, just past, has left the western range states a fairly good supply of moisture as a general rule. About half the area has had a little less than normal precipitation, but the other half has had a definite excess. It happens, however, that the drier half, mostly the plateau section, has had a moderate excess in February, which is more favorable for spring ranges than if it had come earlier. January was a dry month in a great many places, and both January and February were dry in a few places; but even in these regions, the deficiency was not great, and there will be some moisture to start the spring

forage. Parts of the region have had deficient moisture for six months, that is less than normal for the period, including eastern Oregon, and most of Utah and Wyoming. But even in these areas the rains and snows of the more recent months have been sufficient to give a fairly favorable outlook for the spring. It will be remembered that much of this region, more especially the southern and eastern portions, may normally expect good precipitation in March, April and May. Some of the areas that have very small normal amounts in these months are those already oversupplied from recent rains and snows.

CAN BIGHEAD OF SHEEP *Be Prevented?*

By W. T. Huffman

Bureau of Animal Industry, U. S. Department of Agriculture

DURING the past four years the United States Bureau of Animal Industry has been investigating the cause of bighead, a disease of sheep in the intermountain region, and various progress reports have been made either in the National Wool Grower or at the annual conventions of the National Wool Growers Association. The interest taken by the wool growers in this investigation and the hearty support given us have aided materially in the progress of the work and, in order to complete the investigation and formulate some practical system of prevention, it is necessary that this co-operation continue. It is immaterial at the present time whether we all agree on the many angles of the problem or not, so long as we make the best use of the knowledge, regardless of its source, that has been acquired.

Review of Present Investigation

The name "bighead" is intended to include the term "swellhead" that is sometimes used to designate this same condition, but, as the latter term is used in the Southwest in connection with a somewhat different disease of sheep and goats, its use in the intermountain region is considered less desirable than the more popular term "bighead."

Since the disease was known to occur mainly in certain definite areas, the first objective was to locate as many of the known bighead areas as possible and compare them with areas where the disease did not occur. This preliminary investigation revealed a very distinct relationship between known bighead areas and the distribution of two species of rather common range plants. Feeding experiments with these plants have quite definitely determined their association with the disease.

The two closely related plants found

associated with bighead are *Tetradymia glabrata*, commonly called spring rabbit brush, littleleaf horsebrush, coaloil brush, or other names that signify its unpopular character, and *Tetradymia canescens*, variety *inermis*, which, except for the term "spineless horsebrush," has no common name and is probably mistaken at times for white sage or species of true sage. These two species of *Tetradymia* have a rather wide distribution throughout the intermountain region and appear to be associated with certain types of soil, and are especially abundant on some of the extensive lava rock areas. The *glabrata* species is the more poisonous of the two and is found principally on the desert ranges in western Utah, Nevada, eastern California, southeastern Oregon and southwestern Idaho. The *canescens* species is found scattered throughout much of the *glabrata* area but is more abundant to the east, west and north of the desert ranges. This species is more palatable and usually occupies a range containing a greater variety of the better forage plants and, since it has a wider altitude range, is found on lambing grounds and up to about 8,000 feet elevation on summer ranges.

The *glabrata* species is one of the earliest of the desert range plants to start growth in the spring and is usually in the full flower stage by the last of May. The plant starts drying up and the leaves drop off soon after June 1, leaving the plants in an apparently dormant state until the following spring. This species is very susceptible to moisture changes and makes relatively little growth in dry seasons. The *canescens* species starts growth later in the spring, especially on the higher ranges, and is slower in maturing. While bighead may develop at

various times of the year, the season when most of the outbreaks occur corresponds with the period during which these two species of *Tetradymia* are making their most rapid growth. This is from April to June.

The areas involved in the bighead problem include portions of Utah, Nevada, California, Oregon, Washington, Idaho, Montana, Wyoming and probably also northwestern Colorado and northwestern Arizona.

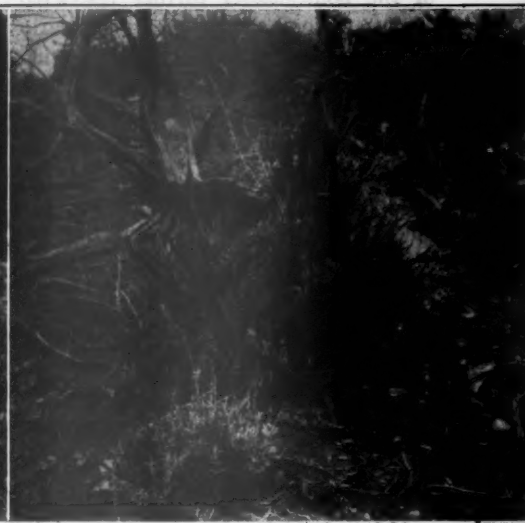
Descriptions of bighead have been published in previous issues of the National Wool Grower, showing photographs of both experimentally produced cases and natural cases occurring in range bands. Since most sheepmen in the affected areas are familiar with the symptoms of the disease, only a few of the more important features will be mentioned here. It is generally assumed that the swelling of the head is the primary condition in bighead, and that this symptom is the first indication of disease. The present investigation, however, indicates that two separate conditions exist and that this swelling is secondary to internal lesions, principally of the liver, that are produced by the plant poisoning. This is especially noticeable in some of the severe outbreaks where many of the sheep become sick and numerous deaths may occur before any swelling of the head is seen. Some sheepmen speak of this as internal bighead. In the experimental work the sheep receiving the larger doses of *Tetradymia* were more apt to die without showing the head swelling than those given smaller amounts.

The cause of the head swelling, or edema, is not well understood but appears to be the result of certain substances getting into the blood and sensitizing the skin to the action of

Left, *Tetradymia canescens*, or spineless horsebrush, that has not been grazed.



Right, *Tetradymia canescens* growing on a trail and heavily grazed.



light. This condition is known as photosensitivity and explains why the swelling usually occurs during the daytime and is more pronounced in bright sunlight. When an entirely black sheep is affected there is seldom, if ever, any noticeable swelling as the black pigment in the skin protects the animal against the action of light.

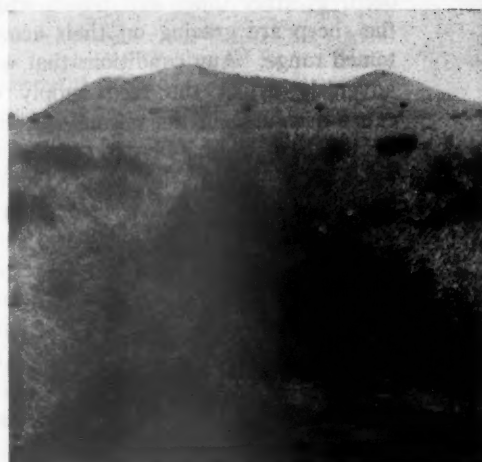
The economic loss caused by bighead is not all due to the deaths that occur at the time of an outbreak, as many apparently recovered animals die within a few months following an acute attack. Many ewes abort during an outbreak and, in addition to the lamb loss for that year, it is probable that a good percentage of these ewes are permanently affected and become uncertain breeders. This question could easily be determined by placing a permanent mark on all recovered bighead cases, especially those that abort, and following them through the next lambing season to see how many remain in the dry band. It is not known what permanent effect the disease has on ewe lambs or yearlings but some owners are of the opinion that many of these animals do not make a complete recovery.

There are several diseases of sheep in different parts of the world that re-

semble bighead and that are produced by eating certain plants. The most important one of these in the United States is the "lechuguilla fever" of Texas that causes considerable loss in that area and, like bighead, is largely dependent upon the amount and character of the available range forage for its occurrence.

Influence of Range Management

The history of bighead dates back some fifty years or more to the early days of the sheep industry in the intermountain region when the range was all open and the feed was free, and the grazing privilege was usually accorded to the man who got on the range early. Trailing was promiscuous as there were no restrictions on range use. It is interesting to note that there has been little change in the incidence of bighead during all of these years except in those areas where there has been an improvement in the system of range management. The market demand for lambs instead of older wethers, and the creation of the national forests, put a stop to the old Oregon trail herds that annually crossed southern Idaho on the way to market, and eliminated the purely speculative outfits that did so much trailing over the ranges up until 25 or 30 years ago. The entry



Tetradymia glabrata, or coaloil brush, on a common Utah trail.



Sheep affected with bighead.

of the homesteader further restricted the use of some of the spring and early summer ranges. Individual shearing plants and small portable outfits have made it possible to harvest the wool clip without making those long trails to the large central shearing plants that were common only a few years ago. Since bighead is largely a trail disease, affecting sheep as they are moved from the winter ranges or shearing corrals to the lambing grounds or summer range, any improvement in range management that will tend to reduce the use of common trails, where the supply of the better grade of forage is soon exhausted, should help materially in reducing losses from this disease.

Although bighead is usually associated with trailing, the disease may occur at other times and places while the sheep are grazing on their accustomed range. Any conditions that will adversely affect the feed supply or cause a change in the normal feeding habits of sheep may be considered as predisposing factors in the production of bighead. The older theories regarding the cause of the disease, such as climatic conditions, storms, especially a snow storm followed by a hot, clear day, certain water, gases emanating from the ground, inhalation of alkali dust, overheating and insects getting into the nose, would apply just as reasonably to areas where bighead does not occur as to those where it is more or less common, and most of them refer to conditions that exist on the usual trail; yet, certain of these theories are based on what we term predisposing factors and are quite important in creating conditions under which the animals will eat *Tetradymia*. It is usually conceded that sudden climatic changes or storms will change the feeding habits and when the ground is covered with snow the sheep will eat the more exposed plants regardless of their usual palatability. When sheep have been off water for some time on a dry, dusty trail, they eat very little and, after being watered, they are ready to take the first plants they come to, and, in many cases, this is *Tetradymia*. This accounts for a large number of

outbreaks occurring soon after watering. Other predisposing factors would include too early use of a range, overgrazed ranges or trails, driving sheep too fast and not allowing them to fill up on feed of their own selection, and holding around shearing corrals until the animals get too hungry. There is a possibility that bighead may occur as the result of a too limited variety of plants on some ranges with *Tetradymia* as the only browse.

In considering the effects of these predisposing factors as they apply to range bighead, reference will be made to a few of the peculiar conditions that arise. There is a wide variation in the incidence of bighead from year to year on a particular range, and also a difference in the severity of the disease. It is common to see bands of sheep grazing quietly on areas where either species of *Tetradymia* is abundant without any bad results, although a trail herd going through this same area may experience a severe outbreak. Several bands may go through practically the same area and only one or two contract bighead. There have also been cases where two bands mixed and bighead developed before they were separated, with the disease showing in only one band. Such occurrences as these emphasize the importance of range and trail management as it applies to the available feed supply and also to the manner in which the herd is managed.

How Can Bighead Be Prevented?

While we know there are many complicating factors associated with both range bighead outbreaks and experimentally produced cases that will require further study, the question of prevention should be given more serious consideration. This should be based on a study of the occurrence and distribution of the two species of *Tetradymia* on the different ranges and trails, the effects of the various predisposing factors that have been discussed, and the reasons why sheep eat these plants only under certain conditions. The effect of storms in this

respect should not be overlooked, as the last real bad bighead year on the west desert of Utah was the spring of 1933 when it stormed almost continuously during a good share of the trailing period. Under such conditions it would be advisable to keep the trail herds entirely away from *Tetradymia* areas. Many of the favorite bed-grounds along the trails from the west desert, as well as a good share of the watering places, are in or near dense patches of these plants where desirable forage is usually scarce. It seems to be a rather common practice on the range to move herds into areas containing larger species of browse during stormy periods and, while this gives more protection to the sheep, such areas may be more dangerous, as they frequently contain an abundance of *Tetradymia*.

Since the results of the present investigation indicate quite conclusively that range bighead occurs only in the presence of one or both of these two species of *Tetradymia*, it seems reasonable to assume that if the herds do not come in contact with these plants, especially under the adverse conditions that seem to prompt the sheep to eat such unpalatable forage, there is little probability that bighead will develop. The problem is one that must be worked out by each individual owner according to the existing circumstances on his particular range or trail, as there is a wide variation in the conditions found on different areas, depending to some extent on which species of the plant is involved.

The effect on the incidence of bighead of supplemental feeding on the trail, either with hay or a concentrate, should be determined. From the standpoint of nutrition alone it would seem advisable to supply additional feed at this time in order to maintain the sheep in a suitable condition.

There has been a tendency on the part of some sheepmen during recent years to ship from the winter range to their lambing grounds, partly to avoid the danger of bighead and also to keep their sheep in better physical condition

during the period just preceding lambing. While this practice will avoid a good share of the trail losses, there is always the possibility of *Tetradymia*, especially the *canescens* species, being present on the lambing grounds in sufficient quantity to cause trouble, and where sheep are unloaded and turned onto a range when they are very hungry, there is danger of loss from other poisonous plants, especially if desirable forage is scarce.

Due to the widespread distribution

of both the *glabrata* and *canescens* species of *Tetradymia* over much of the winter and spring ranges of the intermountain region, it can hardly be expected that all loss from bighead could be eliminated, but, with proper study and care by the owners and operators of range sheep outfits, we think the sheep business can be made a much safer venture for all who are interested in the various phases of this important industry.

Results of National Lamb Event

Reports from the Institute of American Meat Packers and the National Association of Food Chains

AT the conclusion of National Lamb Event, which ran from September 16 to October 20, 1937, the leading wholesale and retail agencies cooperating in the movement were asked for data that would give some idea of what the drive accomplished. Reports from the Institute of American Meat Packers and the National Association of Food Chains have been received.

The report from the Institute, received on January 26, is as follows:

Following the meeting held in Chicago December 4 between representatives of the National Wool Growers Association and the Institute of American Meat Packers, the Institute advised packers who process and merchandise lamb of the suggestion made at the meeting that a survey be made in the low lamb consuming regions in order to find out how the volume of lamb sales in September and October this year compared with the amount of dressed lamb sold in those areas in the corresponding two months a year earlier.

Each of a number of companies selling a considerable volume of lamb immediately began compiling a record of its lamb sales for the five geographical regions in which the amount of lamb consumption is small. The individual reports of the several companies were then tabulated by the Institute's Department of Marketing. A summary of the results of the survey is as follows:

| Geographical Regions | Per Cent Change in Sales | |
|----------------------------|------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| | Sept., 1937 From Sept., 1936 | Oct., 1937 From Oct., 1936 |
| South Atlantic States..... | + 3% | — 6% |
| E. No. Central States..... | + 6 | — 2 |
| W. No. Central States..... | + 24 | + 2 |
| E. So. Central States..... | + 4 | small increase |
| W. So. Central States..... | + 11 | + 9 |

It will be observed from the foregoing figures that there was an increase in the amount of lamb consumed in most of the low lamb consuming geographical regions in both September and October this year, as compared with the amount consumed in those areas in the corresponding period a year earlier. The increase was especially marked in the West North Central States which include Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota, Iowa, Nebraska, Kansas, and Missouri, and in the West South Central States which include Arkansas, Louisiana, Oklahoma, and Texas.

The increase in lamb sales in most of these areas is especially significant when it will be noted from the foregoing figures that total lamb consumption in the entire United States in September this year was 7 per cent larger than the amount consumed in September a year ago and that consumption in October this year, as a result of reduced marketings, was 9 per cent smaller than the amount consumed in October a year ago.

From a study of the results of this survey, we are convinced that packers are making a great effort to increase the sales of lamb in the several geographical regions where lamb is low. Packers generally are of the opinion that this program to increase lamb consumption in these areas is a long-time program, and we have been told by some of them individually that they are making definite arrangements to do all they possibly can in acquainting consumers in the low lamb consuming areas with lamb,

with the expectation that eventually lamb will increase in popularity as a food item in these sections of the country. The nationwide program recently launched by the Institute of American Meat Packers, in order to arouse interest in meat, is expected to arouse a greater interest in all meats. The Institute is making a strenuous effort to enlist the cooperation of all friends of the livestock and meat industry in this undertaking, in the belief that many consumers of meat do not appreciate fully the value of meats that are now available to them. We are very enthusiastic about the good that we believe will come from this nation-wide effort being put forth by the meat and livestock industry.

The National Association of Food Chains made the following statement on January 15:

At your request we addressed to some of the members of this association and cooperating companies, an inquiry regarding the results and their observations in connection with the National Lamb Event. Some very interesting replies and helpful suggestions were received. We report to you herein below on the four questions asked:

1. What percentage of increase in lamb sales did you experience due to the September-October lamb campaign as compared with the corresponding period in 1936?

(a) From reports of companies operating over 14,000 stores the following table has been compiled, to indicate the general character of support given by the chain food stores to the sale of spring lamb during the National Lamb Event. Due to the widely varying per capita consumption in different areas and particularly to the supply situation in some of the principal markets, no attempt has been made to arrive at a national average of increase in sales by chain food stores.

The combining of some geographical areas has been necessary because many companies operate in more than one region as classified by the Institute of American Meat Packers in compiling its tables of per capita consumption.

A few companies operating a total of fewer than 200 stores in low consumption areas reported decreases in total volume. A few companies did not have available poundage figures for the particular corresponding period of 1936 and therefore could not furnish percentage changes in sales.

It will be realized that an increase of one per cent in a region of high per capita consumption may amount to as much as or more in volume than 30 or 40 per cent increases in areas of low per capita consumption. It will also be borne in mind that the total of lambs slaughtered under federal inspection was 4 per cent less in

| Geographical Region | Per Capita Consumption Pounds | No. of Stores Operated by Reporting Companies | Reported % of Increase in Sales During Campaign over Corresponding Period in 1936 |
|---------------------------|-------------------------------|---|---|
| New England States | 13.2 | 3641 | 1. |
| Middle Atlantic States | 13.9 | 2847 | 9.2 |
| South Atlantic States | 2.1 | 144 | 40.0 |
| East North Central States | 4.1 | | |
| West North Central States | 1.5 | 4281 | 28.0 |
| East South Central States | .5 | | |
| West South Central States | .7 | 670 | 23.0 |
| Mountain States | 2.1 | | |
| Pacific States | 11.6 | 2666 | 34.0 |

September and October, 1937, than during those months in 1936.

Some peculiarities in this supply situation are interesting. For example, Bureau of Agricultural Economics figures show a 17 per cent greater supply in New York, and an 18 per cent greater supply in Philadelphia. With markets like New York and Philadelphia receiving so much more lamb than in the corresponding months of 1936, it is evident that many parts of the country had greatly decreased supplies of lamb and mutton. This becomes especially significant when it is remembered that New York and Philadelphia consume such large quantities of lamb due both to the great population and the high per capita consumption.

(b) The suggestion of one company seems to be deserving of the most serious consideration by lamb producers, and therefore it is quoted in full:

"We have one very definite thought and recommendation in regard to any future lamb campaigns and that is, that they should be run sectionally rather than nationally. In this regard we are not thinking of the necessity of moving surplus stocks at any particular season, but stimulating and widening the demand for lamb in poor consuming sections. While we are not conversant with the demand for all food products, lamb is the only item on the American diet that we know of that enjoys a very large consumer demand and acceptance in some of the larger metropolitan sections, and little or no demand in many other large cities and geographical subdivisions.

"The fact that so big a percentage of lambs is sold in so small an area is well known to the producers, packers, and ourselves; therefore, it would seem that if the industry is desirous of increasing lamb consumption there is little to be gained by further increasing the business in the favorable sections. Our efforts and thoughts should be centered on a mutual producer-packer-retailer campaign for increasing lamb consumption in the lower consuming sections.

"In order to do this work intelligently, we do not think the country should be taken as a whole, but subdivided by regions and an intensive campaign developed in these regions with the whole-hearted cooperation of the packers' support so they will be willing to ship in on consignment, or on order, increased percentages of lamb which normally are not

shipped to those markets. Then have all of the retail meat dealers cooperate on eight-week campaigns to be run on alternate weeks, so that we would have four drives on advertising lamb and overcome the objections and the reasons for our failure to date to develop business in these sections. These reasons . . . (are) as follows:

"1. The inability of retail outlets to purchase choice quality lamb from packers' branch houses, due to the fact that the packers have felt that lamb could not be sold in certain sections, and therefore have not included them in their carload shipments.

"2. The short-sighted policy of many retailers in advertising lamb but actually supplying the trade with yearling sheep or poor quality thin lambs which throw a very small and unattractive rib or loin chop.

"3. The efforts on the part of some retail butchers to obtain a high mark-up on lambs and consider them as a luxury meat item.

"4. The lack of familiarity on the part of local butchers in properly preparing retail lamb cuts; for example, the using of a cleaver instead of a saw, causing bone splinters, * * *

"We are presenting these suggestions to you so the National Association of Food Chains can draw them up in the form of a recommendation to the National Live Stock and Meat Board, and have copies sent to the various lamb feeders' and lamb growers' associations throughout the country.

"It is our opinion that until some well thought-out plan, backed by the whole-hearted support of the producer, the packer, and the retailer, is launched that we will fail to make any definite gains in widening the consumption and distribution of lamb meat throughout the United States."

(c) A tremendous amount of advertising in newspapers, over radio, on billboards, and in stores, brought lamb to the attention of the public, even though purchases may not in all cases have followed immediately, for one reason or another. Each dollar intelligently spent in advertising tends to break down resistance to the purchase of lamb and to make it easier for future dollars spent in advertising to give a good account of themselves in actual sales.

2. What was the situation as to supply and quality of lamb available in the markets served by your company during the period of the lamb campaign?

(a) Here, too, reports varied widely, with most companies reporting that there was an adequate supply of the quality desired.

3. What were the attitude and actions of the packers in respect to supplies, prices of carcasses, etc.?

(a) Most companies reported that the packers were cooperative and appeared not to take advantage of the impending sale by unduly raising wholesale prices. It seemed to be the opinion of most companies that the natural effect of the sale, with many retailers throughout the country buying lamb during the first week of the campaign, would be to increase the demand and temporarily advance the market, but that generally during the fall months lambs were reasonably priced.

(b) One large company expressed the opinion that if "it had not been for the chains' cooperating in the campaign, lambs would have been selling from \$1 to \$2.50 a hundred lower alive. To this extent the livestock producers enjoyed a tremendous advantage by our cooperating, although we recognize it is very difficult to prove how low the market might have gone had we not had whole-heartedly supported it during this period of heavy lamb receipts."

(c) An outstanding characteristic of the National Lamb Event was the fair retail price uniformly asked by chain food stores. Newspaper advertisements during the campaign period, throughout the country, are the best evidence of this fact.

4. Will you continue to feature lamb in your meat merchandising program?

(a) Practically all companies reported, "Yes."

(b) A few companies reported that no special emphasis was being put upon lamb after the campaign period but that the usual normal selling would continue.

In general the evidence in this office clearly indicates that whole-hearted and widespread support was given the lamb producers during the period of heavy receipts of spring lambs. Lamb was featured by most of the companies through all the advertising media usually employed—newspaper and radio advertising, handbills, house organs, special refrigerator case displays, posters, banners, pennants, etc. The effect of this on sales is indicated by some of the percentages shown above.

We trust that you will find herein information which will be of value to the lamb producers. It seems obvious that the opportunity of increasing the consumption of lamb in the low cost distribution areas (the entire Middle West and South) is a challenge which the lamb producers should not ignore. The chain food stores are organized to assist the producers in any worthy coordinated, educational and promotional program.

The Taylor Grazing Administration

From the Viewpoint of the Advisory Board

By B. H. Stringham, Vernal, Utah

An Address Before the 31st Annual Convention of the Utah Wool Growers, January 24-25, 1938, Salt Lake City

IN THIS brief discussion, I must necessarily cover my subject from the viewpoint of District No. 8, which undoubtedly is a representative board, consisting of 22 men selected from every corner of the district.

The most disturbing element in the administration of the Taylor Grazing Act, from the standpoint of the advisory board, has been the constant change of rules.

At the inception of the Taylor Act, our board was told by the administrative heads, "Now you boys make your own rules and we will stand back of you." This we proceeded to do and all went well until appeals began coming in and then we found, to our surprise, that we were acting merely as the shock absorber between the licensee and the administration; that the administration stood behind us only when it suited its ideas.

To illustrate what our board considers confusing to the sheepman, let me take you very briefly through the changes that the priority rule has undergone in three short years. In the first place, our district is badly overstocked. Our board, on the theory "first in time, first in right," passed a priority rule of $4\frac{1}{2}$ years. We proceeded to issue our first licenses on this rule. The next year we were informed by the administration that licenses must be issued on a one-year priority basis. We proceeded to issue licenses on a one-year priority. Then came the order: "Priority will constitute any three years out of the five preceding the Act, or any two consecutive years within the five." We proceeded again under the new rule. The rule as adopted in Washington, D. C., in the December meeting of the representative boards from the ten western states was: any three years out of five, leaving out the two consecutive years. Such changes as these have been very confusing to the boards and

very hazardous to some licensees, causing a great deal of expense for appeals, attorney fees, traveling long distances and the loss of much time. And all the while in most instances the very thing these men were asking for was perfectly proper and within their right. In the application of Utah No. 8's famous 65-mile rule, several sheep outfits sold out. One man leased 94 school sections at one time, only to find later that this was unnecessary as the 65-mile rule was out. However, this man is keeping these school sections under lease for fear of what the future might bring.

Is this stability of the livestock industry?

About the middle of last September the various boards of Utah received a set of proposed rules from the Division of Grazing and were given five days in which to offer written comments and forward them to Salt Lake City. This set of rules contained many ambiguous terms and objectional rules. Several members of our board wrote in protesting their adoption. On October 1 we received another set of rules, which to our board was much more acceptable. On October 7 we received another set of rules, with the caption, "Destroy all former rules. Enclosed are the new rules." And again, as board representatives left for Washington, D. C., on November 25, we were handed still another set and were told these are the latest rules. Then after three days' discussion at Washington of the latest rules, on the fourth day as some of us were preparing to leave, we dropped into the Interior building to say goodbye, and one of the officials said, "I awakened in the night last night, got up and wrote a new rule. Here it is." He proceeded to read it. "This," he said,

"will be one of your rules."

Recently I was sitting near two advisory board members. One was reading with apparent intense interest. The other fellow said, "Reading the rules?"

"Yep."

"The latest rules?"

"Nope, I haven't got my mail yet today."

This latest rule, however, embodied the one thought that was paramount, not only in the Washington conference but in every other general meeting that has been held, that is: You cannot impose but very few general rules on the ten western states. Conditions are so varied, not only among the states, but the districts within the states themselves. If this Act is to work, the various boards must be given latitude to meet their peculiar conditions. This new rule proposes to do this very thing. Thus the administration has jumped around in a three-year circle and arrived right back where it started from when it said to the board, "Make your own rules and we will stand back of you."

In the midst of all this confusion of rules, our good friends in the Forest Department became jealous and said, "Here, these fellows in the Division of Grazing have written more rules in three years than we have in thirty. Something must be done." So they proceeded to give us their 12-Point Program. This program made the Einstein Theory look like the First Reader.

How has the administration of the Taylor Act affected the sheep industry? In our section to date it has had a jittering effect. Perhaps these growing pains were all unavoidable. Criticism is easy, but necessary, if we are to grow properly. The men who have administered the Act are a bunch of

fine fellows. Nobody doubts their sincerity. They certainly are eager to do the thing that is best for all concerned.

Now we find the other side of the ledger shows many beneficial effects due to the passage of the Taylor Act such as, in our case, the elimination of one third of the sheep from the winter range. This sounds disastrous, but it was necessary in our district. Prohibiting sheep from using the winter range during the summer; a definite date for leaving and entering the winter range; dividing the winter range into units, thus localizing the drifter who had the habit of trailing out as much feed as his herds consumed; the elimination of the nomad who had no property; range improvement through the 25 and 50 per cent funds; the coming of the E.C.W. with its C.C.C. Camps, and as a result, roads, wells, reservoirs, spring development, posting of trails—these are other resulting advantages. Incidentally, another benefit to the wool grower has been the meeting of advisory boards in local, state and national gatherings and the consequent exchange of ideas. This has liberalized our thinking.

Has the Taylor Act been worth while? If it were to be repealed tomorrow I would say "Yes," because, pray tell me, how a poor sheepherder could have had a trip to Washington, D. C., at the expense of the New Deal under any other Act?

Do we like the Taylor Act? Yes. Who is to blame for all this confusion? The licensee? Yes! The boards? Yes! The administration? Yes!

What we need in our section is a settling down place—less constant change of rules. No more general rules for a while. We want simple rules, rules that can be applied without a full knowledge of algebraic and geometric formulas—crystallization of the present rules. Better balance of boards. A board large in number—thus we are less apt to go astray. Keep fighting that dangerous thing "selfishness." Election of the best men in the business to the board. See that the board has plenty of latitude. Learn a vital lesson

from our good friends the cowmen—Stick Together!

[Washington, D. C., March 8. I was informed last night that the new grazing rules are not yet officially approved. After the close of western state meetings last fall the proposed rules were considered by the group of board members who met in Washington on November 29. After that the rules were before the policy committee of the Department of the Interior for about ten weeks. It is understood that they now are on Secretary Ickes' desk, awaiting his approving signature.

There is no appearance of activity on the McCarran-Scrugham bills to provide in the law for advisory boards.—F.R.M.]

Idaho University Man Becomes Sheep Breeding Director at Dubois Station

J. E. Nordby, for the past 20 years associated with the Department of Animal Husbandry at the University of Idaho, has been appointed director of the western sheep breeding research laboratory of the Bureau of Animal Industry, United States Department of Agriculture, at Dubois, Idaho. His appointment to the federal post and his resignation from the University of Idaho both became effective March 1.

The sheep breeding laboratory is under the direct supervision of the Bureau of Animal Industry and is conducted for the improvement of sheep for range conditions. Experiment stations of the twelve western states are collaborating with the bureau in this range sheep improvement program.

Mr. Nordby's duties will be "to assume technical and administrative leadership and responsibility for the conduct and coordination of research in sheep breeding."

Operating on an extensive scale the laboratory will work cooperatively with the U. S. Sheep Breeding Experiment Station located at the same place.

From 3,000 to 5,000 head of sheep will be available for experimental work. Special emphasis will be placed on breeding to eliminate undesirable characteristics in individual sheep and to develop more reliable breeding animals.

Nordby was graduated from the University of Idaho College of Agriculture in 1915, completing his master's work the following year at the University of Illinois. Since that time he has been continuously on the faculty of the Idaho College of Agriculture except for one year of service during the war and two years in livestock production in Idaho. At Dubois he will be associated with Stanley L. Smith, an Idaho graduate in the class of 1928, who is superintendent of the range operations at the Dubois plant.

Nordby is the author of 22 scientific papers and investigations concerning sheep and swine. Other work accomplished at the Idaho University includes collaborated authorship of "Livestock Judging Handbook" published last year with Dr. W. M. Beeson formerly of the department, and a series of six volumes on selecting, fitting, and showing livestock written with Professor H. E. Lattig, head of the agricultural education department.

Professor Nordby is an authority in the field of animal breeding and has been consulted by a number of institutions on experimental procedure. His services as a livestock judge are much in demand at the larger western livestock shows and fairs. He is a member of a number of honorary scientific societies. Nordby has spent considerable time each summer for several years in field work in connection with 4-H livestock club projects.

Idaho University Press

Large Attendance at Meat Cooking Schools

IN 16 cities, a total of 142,114 housewives watched meat cookery demonstrations and listened to meat facts presented by lecturers of the National Live Stock and Meat Board during February. This record of attendance is the highest to be reached by Meat Board schools during a single month.

Demonstrations were given in five cities in Illinois, four in Texas, two in Ohio, two in Georgia, one in Alabama, one in Pennsylvania and one in Minnesota.

Cold

STORAGE

IN Mr. Poole's review of the Chicago market this month, George Myers of Wilson and Company is reported as saying that the use of the box system of consumer cold storage in small interior points offers possibly a partial solution of the lamb distribution problem. "If farmers," Mr. Myers stated, "will put away a few hundred lamb carcasses in each locality for their own use, they will relieve the urban market of an appreciable poundage that otherwise must come in competition with feed lot output."

It is not the purpose of this article to discuss Mr. Myers' statement, but rather to bring to the readers of the Wool Grower the story of cold storage lockers, condensed from material available at this time. The sources of the information presented are Consumer's Guide, September 20, 1937; "Cold Storage Lockers" and "Preserving Farm-Dressed Meat in Freezer Storage," two papers prepared by K. F. Warner of the Bureau of Animal Industry, U. S. Department of Agriculture, and Special Bulletin 187 issued by the Agricultural Extension Division of the University of Minnesota, July, 1937.

The cold storage locker system simply applies the principle of the safety deposit box to foods. As certain financial institutions offer protection for the family's valuables at a nominal rental fee per year, so now ice companies, creameries, cold stor-



Selecting the Sunday roast from the family's cold storage locker.

age plants, retail meat markets, and farmers' organizations in many localities are offering refrigeration—protection against spoilage—for meat, vegetables, fruits and other foods that the farmer produces, in individual lockers at a small charge, the average rate being about \$10 a year.

Origin and Development

The rise of cold storage locker units has been rapid during the past five years. Up to June of last year, more than 2500 of them were in operation over the country, but mainly in the Pacific Northwest and the corn belt. Their beginning, so it is claimed, was in Centralia, Washington, in 1917, when a successful sportsman, returning with his catch, asked a friend who owned an ice plant to take care of some pheasants for him. Not having any precedent to work on, the owner of the ice plant froze the fowls and the outcome was so successful, from the standpoint of palatability that the influx of requests for similar service induced the plant owner to provide individual locker space in his plant.

LOCKERS

The next step in the movement came ten years later when the Walla Walla Dairymen's Association permitted farmers to freeze their rabbits and other produce in their butter storage room and soon were forced to construct a special plant to handle this individual refrigeration business. Their success also interested other plants in the community to offer such a service.

Since that time the idea of cold storage lockers has moved across the country and found firm footing in the Middle West and South, particularly. In the Middle West it was received whole-heartedly by many farmers' co-operatives that had been advocating farmer-owned packing plants as a means of reducing price margins between producers and consumers. In the cold storage locker they saw an opportunity for consumers to buy a carcass or a part of a carcass wholesale, have it cut up in suitable packages and stored in their private boxes for future use. The Farmers Educational and Cooperative State Union of Nebraska now operates its own packing plant as a part of its creamery unit, and the Farmers Union Creamery at Aurora, Nebraska, opened a storage locker system last fall. In the town of Madison, Nebraska, a municipal ice plant and cold storage locker system was completed in April, 1936. This was a community project in which the W.P.A. cooperated, the latter furnishing about half the cost in labor and the city supplying funds for materials and

equipment. This plant opened with 300 lockers, but had to add another 40 before the first year closed. The rental fee for these boxes is low, \$4 a year.

Cold storage plants with a total meat-curing capacity of 4½ million pounds are now operating in various counties in Mississippi, as a result of efforts of the Mississippi State College in cooperation with the W.P.A.

At the end of last June, there were 38 such plants operating or under construction in Minnesota. Twenty of these were owned by cooperatives and 18 were independently operated. Most of them, in fact all but three, are handled as a part of some other business, such as creameries, ice-cream plants, produce houses and so forth.

Service Provided by Cold Storage Locker Plants

A proper cold storage unit includes (1) a chill room, (2) a processing room, (3) a sharp freeze room and (4) a locker room. A good many of them also offer slaughtering and cutting services. They either send a butcher out to kill the animal at the farm or have a truck pick it up and haul it to the plant if slaughtering facilities are provided there. In the Minnesota plants the average charge for this slaughter service is around \$1.50 for hauling a lamb to the plant and slaughtering it there and 75 cents for slaughtering alone; for beef the charges are \$2.50 and \$1.50 respectively.

When either beef or lamb is to be stored, the carcass is left in the chill room for at least a week, longer if the animals are well fattened, so that the meat will be properly aged; about two days is required for pork. This chill room or cooler is kept at 32 to 36 degrees above zero. Following the chilling and aging process, the meat is taken to the cutting room, which is not necessarily refrigerated, where it is cut up into units in sizes to fit the family's needs, and wrapped in tough, moisture proof parchment paper, labeled to show contents and date of freezing. The charge for this service

in the Minnesota units averages 75 cents per head for lambs and \$2 for beef up to 400 pounds in weight and \$2.50 over that weight. The average cost for such work in plants over the country is estimated at around 1¼ cents a pound, but one plant in Oregon charges only three-fourths of a cent a pound.

The wrapped meat is taken from the cutting room to the sharp freezing room where the temperature is kept around zero, although temperatures as high as 10 to 12 degrees above zero have been found satisfactory in some plants where the lower temperature is not practical. Here the meat is left until entirely frozen, the time depending on the size of the cuts. Then the packages are placed in the family's private locker in an order designated by the patron. The temperature of the locker room ranges from 12 to 15 degrees above zero. Most foods can be held in these locker rooms from six months to a year.

Access to the locker room is available at any time during the day and usually Saturday evenings and in some plants on Sunday also. Each patron has the key to his locker.

The lockers are usually of steel construction with steel or wire collapsible sides and bottom to provide for proper ventilation and convenience in cleaning. While size varies, the average is around 17x20x30 inches, which is sufficiently large to handle from 200 to 300 pounds of meat. Rental fees range from \$6.50 to \$12.50 a year, but the usual charge is \$10.

While consideration is given here mainly to the storage of meats, vegetables, fruits, eggs, poultry and, in some instances fish are also stored in these individual locker plants. The use of the lockers up to the present time, however, has been largely for meat.

What course the future of the cold storage locker business will take and how far-reaching its effect will be are open to anybody's thought. It is claimed by some farmers that, compared with buying meat from retail shops, they save from \$100 to \$200 annually by storing their own meat, but these

figures are thought to be a little high by the authors of the Minnesota bulletin. Of course, the family has to use an entire carcass instead of just buying the cuts they wish. They must plan their meals so that the less favored cuts are not all left to the last, and also they have to allow for the slow thawing of the frozen cuts before cooking. The chief criticism of the system, however, lies in the fact that it does not provide proper health inspection of the animals slaughtered, but that complaint can be lodged against all meat killed on farms or in local butcher shops and undoubtedly, such inspection will soon be generally provided.

And in comparison with the farm butchering and canning processes, the locker system apparently has the best of it. Here greater palatability of the food stored, elimination of the drudgery incidental to home canning, less spoilage, less waste in cutting, and greater latitude in the selection of time of killing are some of the advantages of the locker system weighed against the inconvenience of getting the meat from the locker and the fact that in having the meat prepared for the cold storage locker there may be a greater outlay of cash than in canning the meat at home.

Generally, results must have been satisfactory to stimulate the rapid development of the cold storage locker units over the country. How much greater the expansion and use of the lockers will be is conjectural; likewise whether or not there will be a large increase in their use by non-producers. It does seem, however, that along with a greater development of this system should go increased consumption of meat in rural communities, for it naturally follows that when a family has stored in their locker around 200 pounds of meat, they are going to eat that much meat. The rise and fall of retail meat prices would not have to come into their budget reckonings. And if lamb fills its proper space in these lockers, there may, as Mr. Myers suggests, be less congestion of this product in urban centers.



Floyd W. Lee, President of the New Mexico Wool Growers Association

New Mexico's Annual Convention

FLOYD W. LEE, San Mateo, was unanimously elected to his eleventh term as president of the New Mexico Wool Growers Association at its 35th annual convention in Santa Fe, February 10 and 11. Mr. Lee's re-election was a recognition of more than a decade of indefatigable work in behalf of the wool industry, both in his state and in the national organization. Don Jose Ortiz y Pino, veteran sheep grower of Galisteo, was re-elected vice president. The executive committee at its business meeting following the convention, unanimously returned Miss Isabel Benson to the position of secretary which she has filled for several years. Some 250 of New Mexico's more prominent sheep raisers were present, an unusually large attendance for the New Mexico organization, which has become accustomed to delegating the work of the organization to its officers and executive committee of 56, all of whom were returned to office.

In his annual address President Lee declared that heretofore the principal work of the association had been promotion of the industry. Now, he declared, wool growers were on the defensive and must bring about more complete organization for effective defense

of the industry. He referred specifically to taxes on sheep, cattle and grazing lands which have been sharply advanced by the New Mexico Tax Commission for 1938, the average being approximately 14 per cent. Mr. Lee declared that the livestock industry, in its present depressed condition as to markets, was in no position to stand any increased tax burden. The one bright spot in the livestock situation, he said, was that the industry was assured of adequate financing and protected against disastrous liquidation. Mr. Lee vigorously assailed the proposed reciprocal trade agreement with Great Britain, pointing out that it would result in the dumping of Australian wools on this market, through admission of manufactured products. He described the top futures market as being one of the main causes of the downward trend in wool prices and as tending to fix a low price level for the oncoming 1938 clip. While he said two views existed as to top futures operations and market influence, he believed all agreed that it should be placed under regulation. The top futures market was vigorously attacked later in the sessions by Phil S. Evans, director of organization of the National Wool Marketing Corporation.

President Lee opposed the proposed reorganization of government departments and the merging of the Department of the Interior and of Agriculture. Some reorganization of bureaus was needed, he said, as there are now seven separate and distinct government agencies operating in New Mexico to regulate the livestock industry. His opposition to the 15 per cent freight rate increase was modified by the demand that the livestock industry be exempted

from the advance, as being in no position to stand increased expenses at this time, and as being unable to pass on the charge. He made it plain that he was not opposed to the railroads' making an adequate return on investment.

Mr. Lee traced the downward trend of the lamb market, fixing the beginning of the slide with the strike of Kosher butchers in New York and pointed out that several unions affiliated with the CIO had boycotted mutton and woolsens. He gave enthusiastic approval to the nation-wide campaign to advance consumption of meat and meat products launched at the Chicago conference February 1. Later in the sessions Clarence Iden of Las Vegas, wholesale merchant and stockman, and Sidney Gottlieb of Cubero, wool grower and dealer, reported fully on the Chicago meeting, which they attended.

Mr. Lee vigorously opposed the proposed creation of 19 new national parks and the condemning of land by the federal government for addition to Indian reservations. Several large land grants in New Mexico have been purchased recently by the federal government and added to holdings of various Indian tribes and pueblos. There is pending a proposal to extend the Navajo Reservation, already the largest in the nation, to take in about one half of the New Mexico counties of San Juan and McKinley. This Mr. Lee vigorously opposed and was later supported by the resolutions committee, which followed his recommendations closely throughout.

Albert K. Mitchell, past president of the American National Livestock Association, gave a comprehensive review

of national legislation, passed and pending, affecting the livestock industry. Mr. Mitchell urged that every argument be presented to members of Congress against the pending reciprocal trade treaty with Great Britain.

An interesting address of the opening session was made by A. D. Brownfield, president of the New Mexico Cattle Growers Association, on cooperation between sheep and cattlemen.

Carrying forward Mr. Brownfield's argument for united front in the industry, the convention unanimously approved merging of the association's monthly magazine, "El Borreguero," with the monthly bulletins of the New Mexico Cattle Growers Association and the Eastern New Mexico Grazing Association, under the name of "The New Mexico Stockman," to be owned and published under joint direction of the three organizations, whose members own more than 80 per cent of all cattle and sheep in New Mexico.

Taxation of livestock and grazing lands, a subject of particular interest to New Mexico, was discussed in vigorous addresses by Capt. Burton C. Mossman of Roswell, E. L. Moulton of Albuquerque and Charles Madrid of Las Cruces. Result of the discussion was a resolution to affiliate with the state organization of taxpayers' associations, and to appoint a special committee to represent the wool growers in that organization as well as before the State Tax Commission.

Interesting talks were also made by Col. E. N. Wentworth of Armour and Company; Frank Butcher, president of the Intermediate Credit Bank, and Ralph Snyder, president of the Bank for Cooperatives, both of Wichita, Kansas; and Capt. W. C. Reid, New Mexico solicitor for the Santa Fe Railroad.

General Resolutions

The New Mexico Association endorsed the resolutions adopted by the National Convention in connection with reciprocal trade agreements, additions to national parks, Argentine Sanitary Convention, McCarran theft bill, 15 per cent freight rate increase and grazing land loans. Other resolutions asked

for a repeal of the surplus profits and capital tax by Congress; opposed the service bill, car limit bill and full crew bill, all pertaining to railroad operation and favored a repeal or modification of the long-and-short-haul clause of the Interstate Commerce Act; and opposed extension of Navajo Reservation.

Former United States Senator Holm O. Bursum, a leading New Mexico sheep raiser, headed the general resolutions committee.

Wool Marketing

As adopted, the report of the wool marketing committee, headed by Fred D. Huning of Los Lunas as chairman, endorsed "the fabric labeling measure before Congress, especially urging that fabrics containing reworked wool show the exact amount of such reworked wool; endorsed the O'Mahoney bill providing for regulation of the wool top exchange under the Commodity Exchange Act; recommended full cooperation with the National Association and state wool growers' organizations in an attempt to secure Commodity Credit Corporation loans on wool to stabilize values at foreign parity; commended work of Associated Wool Industries and urged continuance of grower support through deduction by dealers of 10 cents a bag; and urged prompt holding of hearings in connection with the Senate investigation of wool marketing practices.

Lamb Marketing

Clarence Iden of Las Vegas was chairman of the Committee on Lamb Marketing. Endorsement was given by the adoption of the report of this committee to resolutions passed at the National Convention requesting buying of lambs on the basis of quality and dressing percentages and the discontinuance of "one-price alley buying," now practiced; urging larger purchases of lamb by federal and state institutions and the elimination of weight restriction on such purchases; commending various agencies that cooperated in the National Lamb Event and giving support to the nation-wide meat promotion campaign of the Institute of American Meat Packers.

The report of this committee also included commendation of the work of the officers of the National Association in investigating lamb market conditions during 1937 and urged continuation of such effort.

New Mexico wool growers went on record as being "in accord with the efforts being made to assist the national movements in stimulating the consumption of lamb and all meat products by increasing available funds through the collection of a definite sum per car at all central markets and the similar sum from sellers of lambs at country points, 50 per cent of such sums to go into the general fund of the Meat Board and 50 per cent into a special fund held by the Meat Board for use in lamb promotion work."

The report of the Committee on Lamb Marketing also included a request that the Secretary of Agriculture in establishing regulations based on Docket No. 580 to so modify the examiner's recommendation "as to preserve full flexibility in price movements and market trading, in both live and dressed lamb, and in other livestock and meats."

Forest Grazing

Frank A. Hubbell, Jr., of Salt Lake, New Mexico, served as chairman of the Committee on Forest Grazing. The report of this committee endorsed that section of the platform adopted by the National Association relating to the 12-point program of the Forest Service, except that definite opposition was expressed to recommendation No. 4. In connection with wildlife, the New Mexico wool growers went on record as opposed to the establishment of federal game refuges, "feeling that the state is capable of handling its own wildlife problems," and as favoring the efforts of the State Game Department in assisting in the control of predatory animals and preventing undue concentration of game animals where such concentrations result in damage to the range.

Public Domain

The Committee on Public Lands in its report recommended that until "leg-

islation is enacted which will protect and perpetuate the rights of graziers upon both the national forests and the public domain, the administration of the grazing resources of the national forests should remain in the Department of Agriculture." It also urged that in the establishment of grazing preference, on the public domain lands, priority of use be made an important determining factor, and favored the passage of the McCarran amendment to the Taylor Grazing Act which would give legal recognition to the district advisory boards.

Recommendation was also made that Congress be urged to amend the Taylor Grazing Act in such a way as to "define and make clear rules and regulations under which the grazing lands of the United States shall be administered," which, it was stated, would more fully protect the rights of the users of the public domain and place such protection under the jurisdiction of the courts.

Acquisition of private lands in New Mexico by the federal government by purchase or condemnation proceedings was condemned, except where such lands are necessary for roads, dams or similar purposes.

John Davenport of Espanola was chairman of the public lands committee.

Predatory Animals

Michel Harriet of Magdalena was chairman of the Committee on Predatory Animals. As adopted, the committee report requested a more liberal policy from the State Game Department in issuing permits to kill bear; asked for appropriations for the work of the Biological Survey in accordance with H.R. 9599 passed in 1930 and requested an appropriation of \$25,000 from the state legislature for each of the fiscal years of 1940 and 1941, provided that at least a similar sum for those years be available from federal funds for the Biological Survey work.

Isabel Benson, Secretary

Shearing Troubles

THE 1938 shearing season opened under anything but auspicious circumstances.

The first flare was sent up by the announcement of Harry Bridges, west coast regional director of the Committee for Industrial Organization, that his organization would support the Sheep Shearers Union of North America, which is affiliated with the American Federation of Labor, in its demands that all sheep must be shorn by union shearers and that unless bags of wool carried the union label, they would be declared "hot" and would not be handled by the teamsters and stevedores. It was also understood by wool growers that lambs from ewes that had been shorn by non-union men would be blacklisted by butchers.

To meet the situation, consideration was given by California growers to a plan of shipping their wool by rail direct to eastern markets. Realization that such a plan, especially if extended into the inland states that usually send their wool to the Pacific Coast ports by rail or truck and thence by boat to Boston, would mean a large loss in revenue brought the Waterfront Employers Association into immediate action. It also aroused the maritime interests at eastern points, who were in line for a similar loss.

Finally, after much more effort and work than this brief recital indicates, the California Wool Growers Association received written assurance from the Waterfront Employers Association that "all wool delivered to Pacific Coast docks will be handled by ship operators, irrespective of any threats to the contrary which may have been made by any union officials." The same letter also stated that "the matter has been discussed with Mr. Bridges by the Committee of 43 in San Francisco, and at a meeting held yesterday Mr. Bridges assured the committee that any wool delivered to Pacific Coast ports would be handled by longshoremen, irrespective of whether it bears a union label or no."

Recent reports show that Arizona and California wools, unlabeled, are now being handled and moving freely through the Port of Los Angeles.

However, the shearing troubles of

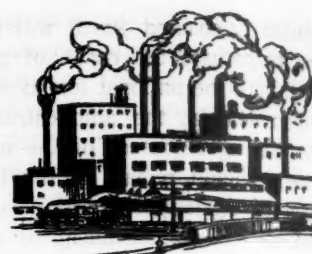
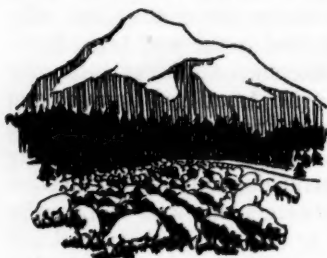
the California sheepmen, according to the California Wool Grower, for this year are not ended. The shearers' union, it is reported, have announced that they will not permit union men to shear sheep unless they can affix the union label to the wool bags. Meetings of sheepmen are being held over the state with Associated Farmers and a definite stand against the labeling of wool bags is being taken. They are also arranging to provide protection for any shearers who wish it. Likewise they are agreed to ship their wool and lambs by rail, if necessary, the California bulletin states.

By March 5, shearing in Arizona had reached calm waters after passing through some exceedingly bad weather. There, while the threat of having the wool tied up at Pacific ports caused considerable worry, the chief difficulty arose over shearing rates. Union shearers attempted to enforce union rates, which are 14 cents or 12½ cents and board, per head. Arizona wool growers were willing to pay what they did last year, 10 cents per head without board (total cost for everything 18 cents) but stated their present financial situation could not stand any increase, especially in view of the fact that wool prices had dropped around 65 per cent from last year.

Shearing started and proceeded at that rate, but all the while a force of about 200 union organizers from other states camped near the more important shearing plants, agitated for higher wages. The squall broke at the end of the fourth week in an attempt on the part of the organizers to stop shearing operations at some of the plants. As a result, it is alleged from reports, twenty of them, including A. A. Evans, secretary of the Sheep Shearers Union of North America, were arrested on a felony charge, and nineteen on a misdemeanor charge. Seventeen of these men were tried in the West Phoenix Precinct Justice Court on February 23 and bound over to the Superior Court for rioting. The case has not yet been set and the defendants are out on bond. Nineteen of the arrested men forfeited bond on a similar charge.

On March 11, all shearing plants in Arizona were operating under the 10-cent rate, and valley shearing was expected to be finished in ten days.

National Wool Marketing



Corporation News Bulletin

Grower Owned and Operated

REGARDLESS of whether you are a bull or bear on the future of the wool market, you can find much to substantiate your position in any review of the existing factors that may influence the course of the wool market during the next few months.

Such a condition naturally makes it most difficult to analyze the market and to present a complete and unbiased picture. Whether one finds a predominance of factors that would indicate a better wool market, or a weaker market depends on the importance one wishes to attach to the various factors. However, we will try our best to present both sides of the picture and ask you to weigh each carefully and then decide. Personally, we lean toward the bullish factors as we attempt to chart out the future course of the market though we realize there are many "ifs" along the road.

First to review actual sales and prices. Wool is being sold both at Boston and in the West, but in relatively small volume as conditions in general are not yet conducive to the operation of mills on anything but a hand-to-mouth basis. In other words, they are buying wool as they need it with their inventories of raw material for the most part at the lowest point in years. The demand is mostly centered in the western combing wools, with the price of territory fine staple, as this goes to press, around 63 to 66 cents, clean. Average French combing territory wool on a clean basis is selling 60 to 63 cents. There is very little movement of medium wools. The market on territory three-eighths is generally figured around 50 to 53 cents, while bright fleece wools are selling in the grease generally from 24 to 26 cents, though halfblood has sold as high as 28 cents. Remember, there is neither any amount of wool being forced on the market at these prices by sellers, nor any active demand from the buyers.

Supply Situation Good

Looking at the future of the wool market from the standpoint of supplies lends decided support to those who adopt the bullish attitude. Supplies on hand in this country on March 1 will probably prove to be not far from 280 million pounds of wool. True, that is more wool than was

on hand on March 1 a year ago, but it is approximately 16 per cent less wool than was on hand during the average 5-year period, 1933 to 1937 inclusive. This is in spite of the fact that we consumed a little less than half as much wool during the first two months of 1938 as compared with January and February, 1937. Our supply position is actually improving due to the fact that our importations of foreign wool for the two months will figure around two million pounds after re-exports are deducted, as compared with approximately 60 million pounds up to March 1 a year ago. Accordingly, it cannot be said that domestically we are overstocked with wool. Rather, our supplies are light.

However, we cannot forget that even though domestic supplies are light world stocks of wool in the Southern Hemisphere are running generally 20 per cent over a year ago, and probably 10 to 12 per cent heavier than the 5-year average, 1932 to 1936 inclusive. Of course, it must be remembered that we are soon to receive on our markets the first of the 1938 shorn wools, but on the other hand, the total amount of shorn wool this year will be less than last year by probably seven or eight million pounds, due to the smaller number of sheep in the hands of western growers. Also, our imports which last year totaled around 160 million pounds will be far under that figure this year unless domestic prices advance closer to foreign importing parity, or world prices work considerably lower in relation to our values. Of course, we must recognize that the increase in supply of these foreign wools has a bearish effect on the world wool market.

In considering supply we must also consider the amount of wool in various stages of manufacture. We find here that the supply of tops available is the heaviest in many years. On the other hand, inventories of finished goods have been liquidated to a larger extent than one would have thought possible several months ago, for consumer purchasing power has held up surprisingly well and has not fallen off to anywhere near the same degree as has the manufacturing of woolen and worsted goods.

Still considering supply, there are these factors that also must be taken into account. Mill supplies of raw

wool are exceptionally short and any upward turn in the market would force almost immediate coverage. Furthermore, supplies of wool weakly held or whose owners are forced to sell have been very rapidly reduced during the last few months and offers at lower prices for wool are being rather generally refused.

Reciprocal Trade Agreement Holding Back Demand

There can be little doubt that the fact that the State Department has under consideration a reciprocal trade pact with Great Britain is acting to withhold demand on the part of all potential buyers of wool in all stages of manufacture. The talk of lowering the duty on manufactured and semi-manufactured woollen and worsted goods cannot help but cause the buyers to withhold all but absolutely necessary orders until the decision is finally announced. Then, too, the talk of negotiations with Australia covering the lowering of duty on raw wool is a decided factor against any forward buying.

On the other hand, we have the Secretary of State, Cordell Hull, coming out last week with a statement to the effect that growers might rest assured nothing would be done hostile to the interests of the wool industry. He indicated in a talk with 13 western Senators that if any change was made in the tariff protection it would be on a few items where the compensatory ad valorem duty is above or around a 100 per cent equivalent. Furthermore, there is much evidence in the trade that the proposed agreement with Great Britain has been fairly well discounted, at least in the "top" prices. Then, too, we find lined up in opposition to this trade pact all interests—growers, co-ops, dealers, topmakers, manufacturers and organized labor. There is almost a solid front whose demands we know the State Department will consider.

It is true that machinery activity in the wool textile industry is at a low point both in this country and abroad, and there are still no definite indications as yet of an immediate strong pick-up in volume. The amount of new business is reported to be small.

To offset that, history shows that the sharp falling off in consumption developed during October, five months ago, and that as a general rule the falling off in consumption has been limited to 5-month periods, though there have been exceptions. The upward swing in wool manufacture is really overdue, especially, as we brought out before, since consumer consumption has not fallen off as rapidly as production.

We might add further that pessimism and lack of confidence, seemingly, are on the wane in most branches of the trade. The general opinion is that business conditions will start to improve though few look for any great improvement until the third or fourth quarter of the year.

We find as far as the light weight season is concerned two trends of thought. One is that it is already too late. Deliveries cannot be made. On the other hand it is well to remember that Easter is coming later this year by several weeks, and that the light weight seasons of 1936 and 1937

both were very poor. Accordingly, some improvement is to be expected as stocks cannot help but be light.

A factor that has been more noticeable in recent years in determining the course of the wool market has been the increased use of wool substitutes, especially abroad, which has materially lessened the demand for wool. On the other hand, manufacturers are prone to declare that wool values have declined to such a point that commingling and substitution are no longer economical, even though prices of competing textiles such as rayon and cotton have shown some weakness.

General Business Conditions Still Unsatisfactory

There can be no question that one of the main reasons for the slump in wool was the general economic condition of the country. We have seen in the last few months a sharp falling off both in agricultural and industrial workers' income and at the present time there is a relatively large number of unemployed in this country, which means fewer buyers for woollen and worsted goods. Then, too, the fact that organized labor is insistent on high wages in the textile industry will serve to keep the prices of woollen goods up and slow down the consumption.

To offset this we must recognize that the program of the administration at Washington has been helpful of late to an improvement in general business conditions. Examples of this are in the housing bill, new farm act, the increase of available government credit, and the consideration of rearmament programs, which unquestionably will promote consumption of wool for use by the Army and Navy.

Reports coming in from the trade all along the line also present some indications of business improvement. The topmakers are reporting specifications improving, and better demand for spot top. There has been some improvement in the spring business in worsteds. The wholesale markets report that apparel goods are selling fairly freely, and there is a shortage of desirable piece goods, which will become more apparent as the season advances. It can hardly be claimed that there was an overproduction of woollen and worsted goods during 1937. Figures show a consumption of around 522 million pounds of raw wool, whereas the average yearly consumption of wool since 1920 was around 543 million pounds. Furthermore, consumption of raw wool by mills over any two-year period has always exceeded the domestic production during that period.

It would be amiss to neglect a comparison of the various business statistics which relate to the demand for the woollen and worsted goods with the periods when wool values were as low, or lower, than they are today. Such a comparison reveals emphatically that wool is not so high today relatively speaking as are the demand factors. In other words, the demand factors today are showing a considerable advance over what they were in the years 1931, 1932 and 1933, while wool is selling fairly close to the levels which prevailed at that time. The statistics for these basic factors are given below:

| | 1931 | 1932 | 1933 |
|---|------|------|---------|
| Fine Staple Wool Today..... | 65c | 63c | 47c 67c |
| Non-Agr. Income, December, 1937..... | 98 | 86 | 68 63 |
| Industrial Production, 1937..... | 84 | 81 | 64 76 |
| Building Contracts Awarded, Dec., 1937..... | 66 | 63 | 28 25 |
| Factory Employment..... | 88 | 77 | 66 72 |
| Income, Industrial Workers, Dec., 1937..... | 76 | 67 | 46 48 |
| All Commodity Prices, January, 1938..... | 118 | 107 | 95 96 |
| Prices Received by Farmers, Jan., 1938..... | 102 | 87 | 65 70 |

Foreign Situation Holding Up Better

Any study of the wool markets must include a review of conditions abroad. Here we find that in the world markets Japan is still buying but little. The foreign markets in the Southern Hemisphere are a little weak though there was some strengthening in these toward the latter part of February. There was an improved tone in the market at Bradford, with Russia doing some buying. Bradford speculators and topmakers were buying rather heavily in Australia, freely expressing the opinion that the time was ripe for buying, in their opinion.

Still other factors that influence wool more or less that must be considered are: The technical position of the commodity and security market is basically sound. The top futures market has picked up around eight points in the last half of February. The political situation, with elections coming this year, should cause the adoption of business improvement programs by Congress. Credit conditions are good, cheap money is still available. Growers as a whole are in a better position financially and accordingly less

wool will be forced on the market, and last, the practically assured fact of Commodity Credit Corporation loans through the government should serve to put a prop under the wool market as was done in the case of cotton and corn.

From this array of factors some tending to the bullish, others to the bearish side, we hope you can find information that will be of material assistance to you in formulating your marketing program. The National Wool Marketing Corporation has at all times felt that since we are an importing nation, foreign importing parity should be the guide to the wool market.

Foreign importing parity, in spite of what weaknesses have set in abroad, is still 10 to 14 cents above the prevailing level of prices for wool in this country. This means, as we brought out before, that wool cannot be imported economically and accordingly we feel that time, patience and credit if allowed will result in wool values working higher unless foreign markets work sharply lower, which does not appear probable. However, when you consider that only in ten years out of the last 38, excluding the war period, have wool prices advanced in the second quarter as compared with the first, it would be more probable to see the firming of prices develop after the second quarter and the strength of the wool market in 1938 exhibiting itself during the third and fourth quarters of the year. Then economists seem to feel business conditions in general will be on a sounder basis and show an improvement over the level of business activity which now prevails.

THE NATIONAL WOOL MARKETING CORPORATION, THROUGH ITS MEMBER ASSOCIATIONS, OFFERS ITS SERVICES TO WOOL GROWERS THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY IN SECURING THE LOANS ON WOOL AUTHORIZED BY THE COMMODITY CREDIT CORPORATION ON MARCH 12, 1938.

IN TAKING THESE LOANS THE GROWER RETAINS HIS EQUITY IN HIS WOOL AND IS GUARANTEED AGAINST ANY DRAWBACK.

NATIONAL WOOL MARKETING CORPORATION

Arizona Wool Growers Assn., Phoenix, Arizona
T. E. Pollock, Director, Jerrie W. Lee, Manager

California Wool Marketing Assn., Red Bluff, Calif.
F. A. Ellenwood, Director, Jas. Kershaw, Manager

Colorado Wool Marketing Assn., Denver, Colo.
Clair Hotchkiss, Director, L. W. Clough, Manager

Colorado-New Mexico Wool Marketing Assn., Durango, Colo.
Edw. Sargent, Director, A. H. Long, Manager

Eastern Idaho Wool Marketing Assn., Inc., Pocatello, Idaho
J. A. Mabey, Director, Arthur Adams, Field Rep.

Montana—Served directly by National Wool Marketing Corp.
John Blackwood, Chinook, Mont., in Charge

Nevada Wool Marketing Assn., Ely, Nevada
J. P. Johansen, Director, C. R. Townsend, Secretary

New Mexico Coop. Wool Marketing Assn., Albuquerque, N. M.
Floyd W. Lee, Director, L. A. McRae, Manager

Oregon-Washington Wool Marketing Assn., Yakima, Wash.
J. A. Hinton, Director, J. W. Hoech, Representative

Utah Wool Marketing Association, Salt Lake City, Utah.
Chas. Redd, Director, Jas. A. Hooper, Manager

Western Idaho Wool Marketing Corp., Boise, Idaho
Worth S. Lee, Director

Wyoming Wool Coop. Marketing Assn., McKinley, Wyo.
J. B. Wilson, Director and Manager

Western Office, National Wool Marketing Corporation
Kearns Building, Salt Lake City, Utah
D. J. O'Loughlin, Western Representative

THE LAMB MARKETS

In February

Denver

ACTIVE trading and prices that averaged around \$1 a hundred higher on good fat lambs at the close than at the opening of the month featured the sheep market at Denver for February. Early in the month good Colorado and Wyoming fat lambs were selling around \$7.15 to \$7.35. Late in the month, choice lambs were selling from \$8.25 to \$8.40 FPR, and around \$7.50 to \$8.20 flat.

Ewes found ready sale at \$3.80 to \$4.25 for the best kinds and \$3.25 to \$3.50 for the medium to good grades late in the month. Early in February, best ewes were bringing around \$3.65 to \$3.85. Receipts for the month totaled 156,331 head, a decrease of around 32,600 compared with the same month last year. Colorado feed lots furnished 110,700; Idaho was next with 17,900; Utah had 16,700, Wyoming 8,500, and lesser numbers came from Oregon, New Mexico, Texas and Nebraska.

Several carloads of lambs were received during the month from Idaho, Utah, New Mexico and southern Colorado which sold to feeder buyers at \$6.60 to \$6.75 early in the month and later around \$7 to \$7.10. One load of 4-H Club lambs from Plainview, Texas, sold on a mid-month session at \$7.25 flat.

A total of 68,000 sheep and lambs were purchased in Denver in February for shipment to Atlantic Coast slaughterers, being twice as many as were shipped to that area a year ago in February. Feeding lambs went out to Illinois, Nebraska, Kansas, Colorado and South Dakota.

A total of 38,000 sheep and lambs were slaughtered locally in February, an increase of 7,000 over the local slaughter during the same month last year. For the first two months of this

year 67,000 sheep and lambs were slaughtered locally or about 30 per cent of the supply of fat lambs sold on the market.

W. N. Fulton

Kansas City

THE February lamb market closed 75 to 85 cents above the January close and \$1.25 to \$1.50 above the lowest point of the month. The entire advance came in the last ten days and was the largest and best sustained rise of the winter feeding season. Evidently the "eat-more-meat" campaign which got under way early in the month was a material factor in the upturn. However, some of the advance is attributed to the fact that fat lambs early in the month were selling too low in relation to fat cattle and hogs, and this leads some trade interests to believe that there will be a further strengthening trend in lamb values until they reach a parity position with cattle and hogs. From the low point in January fat cattle have been quoted up \$1 to \$1.25 and hogs \$1.25 to \$1.50. Even at these advances hogs alone are making feeders a fair return.

The closing price each month, beginning with October, when fed lambs first began to show on the market, indicate the general trend. The October close was \$9.60; November \$9; December \$8; January \$7.50. February started at \$7.25 and on the fifth best lambs sold at \$6.85. From then until the 18th there were varied degrees of strength and weakness with the top range from \$7 to \$7.35. Beginning February 19 there was a decided improvement that carried final quotations up to \$8.35 to score the high point since November. Shorn lambs holding a 75-cent to \$1 lower position than wool lambs uncovered closely related price changes to wool offerings. On the close best shorn

lambs were quoted at \$7 to \$7.25. Considering the price of wool, the price difference between wool and shorn grades was large. However, shearing got lots of weight and short yearling classes over the scales under a lamb specification.

Weight has been one of the outstanding features in the offerings. An average of better than 90 pounds has been maintained and many bunches were above 100 pounds. Some offerings were as heavy as 110 pounds. While the wheat field contingent carried plenty of weight, and undoubtedly had made cheap gains, they did not show favorably with dry lot fed lambs in killing returns.

At the beginning of February lamb feeders had their "dobbers" down as at that time it looked as if they would sustain the largest losses in many years. The upturn, though not sufficient to return the market to a profitable basis, has cut down the loss and modified the situation.

This year started with 11 per cent more lambs on feed than a year ago, and at the end of two months of marketing the percentage has not been scaled downward. It will take well-distributed marketing during the next 60 days to clear the crop. Western Nebraska and northern Colorado have more than a normal per cent of fed lambs west of the Missouri River. The Kansas, Oklahoma and Texas wheat field lambs are about cleaned up. Texas and New Mexico still have some dry lot lambs. The northern corn belt, especially east of the Mississippi River, had so much rain and snow that lambs in those areas did not do so well as usual and a large per cent of them have already been marketed. Because of present holdings Colorado and western Nebraska will have a dominating posi-

Comparative Prices Live and Dressed Sheep and Lambs

CHICAGO AVERAGE LIVE LAMB PRICES

| Week Ending: | Feb. 26, 1938 | Feb. 19, 1938 | Feb. 27, 1937 |
|-------------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| Lambs: | | | |
| Choice | \$ 8.20 | \$ 7.54 | \$10.64 |
| Good | 7.72 | 7.01 | 10.21 |
| Medium | 7.08 | 6.43 | 9.49 |
| Common | 6.38 | 5.87 | 8.62 |
| Ewes: | | | |
| Good and Choice | 4.28 | 4.00 | 5.70 |
| Common and Medium | 3.15 | 3.00 | 4.44 |
| Feeders: | | | |
| Good and Choice | 6.68 | 6.66 | — |

NEW YORK AVERAGE WESTERN DRESSED LAMB PRICES

| | | | |
|----------------------------|-------|-------|-------|
| Lamb: (39-45 lbs.) | | | |
| Choice | 15.90 | 14.10 | 17.55 |
| Good | 15.05 | 13.30 | 16.80 |
| Medium (All Weights) | 15.05 | 13.10 | 16.42 |
| Common (All Weights) | 13.90 | 12.25 | 15.80 |

tion in the general market situation for the next 60 days.

The first shipments of new crop lambs will move from Arizona March 14 to 21. Early reports indicate fewer will be shipped from that state this year than last, but that the condition of the offerings will be better. The first consignments will arrive in time to be in meat trade channels before Easter.

Ewes, which made up fully 90 per cent of the muttons offered, sold at \$3.50 down early in the month, but in the past ten days rallied strongly and closed at the high point of the winter feeding season. On the last day of the month several large bunches of 120 to 122-pound California ewes brought \$4.60 and \$4.70. The top was \$4.85, which is a good price in relation to lamb quotations. Practically all the ewes that carried a lamb prospect went back to the country at prices ranging from \$4 to \$6.50, depending on age and quality. No choice young breeding ewes arrived.

February receipts were 107,632, practically the same as January, but about 14,000 less than in the same month last year. In the two months arrivals were 215,648 or 69,646 less

than in the same period last year.

C. M. Pipkin

St. Joseph

THE month's receipts were 91,211 compared with 91,030 in January and 87,129 in February a year ago. The largest contributor during the month was Colorado with 28,994, while Nebraska had 17,734, Texas and New Mexico 10,978, Kansas 15,472, which were mostly from wheat fields, and Idaho, Utah, and Wyoming had 4,719.

The lamb market was very uneven throughout the month, but closed mostly \$1 higher. At the close of January best fed westerns sold at \$7.50, after which the market worked lower, reaching a low top of \$7.15 on the 16th. After this date values were higher on most days and closed with best at \$8.50 on the last day. Other good lambs sold \$8.35@8.40 with some down to \$8. Clips sold on the close at \$7.35. The market for aged sheep also closed around \$1 higher. Choice ewes were quoted up to \$4.60 or more on the close, old wethers \$4.50 @5.50, two-year-olds up to \$6.50, and yearlings \$7.50.

H. H. Madden

Chicago

LIVE mutton trade participated in a general advance in livestock prices late in February, but it was a laggard. Hogs led the procession, cattle following and lambs tailing.

In one week top lambs jumped from \$7.90 to \$8.60, the Farr Colorados setting the pace. The advance of 50 to 75 cents per hundred was variously construed. Improvement in dressed trade was one factor; slightly curtailed supply another. As is invariably the case a favorable reaction generates hope.

For the feeder, February was a lean month, recording heavy losses. Before the leaf was fairly off the calendar, the market had gone below an eight-dollar basis. Gradually the bulk of the offering drifted from \$7.75@8 to \$7.25@7.50, when the low level was uncovered late in the third week. Recovery followed, gradually and intermittently until the \$8 quotation had been restored, and during the last week a miniature boom developed, the other species moving along with the procession.

This upturn, belated as it was, undoubtedly prevented a period of ruinous liquidation, as a \$7 market was imminent when the turn of the road was reached. Assuming that the "eat-more-meat" campaign, lustily proclaimed between both coasts, exerted an influence, a few days of reduced receipts, better feeling in dressed trade and revival of a modest volume of eastern competition were factors. Whenever a shipping order for 1,200 and 2,500 head reached Chicago on a single session, prices could be marked up 10@15 cents. Frequently the ground thus gained reverted, but it developed from a slippery and apparently hopeless market to a strong affair in which gains could be held. An upturn of \$1 to \$2 per hundred in eastern dressed prices was a favorable symptom, inserting a prop where none had existed previously.

By the end of February the Chicago lamb market was apparently on a firm

(Continued on page 35)

With the

WOMEN'S AUXILIARIES

The following committees have been named by National President, Mrs. W. P. Mahoney, to serve during 1938:

Finance

Mrs. R. A. Jackson, Goldendale, Washington
 Mrs. Jack Edwards, 158 N. Ridge Ave., Idaho Falls, Idaho
 Mrs. D. W. Campbell, Flagstaff, Arizona
 Mrs. Edmond Meyer, Ritzville, Washington
 Mrs. Sylvester Broadbent, Salt Lake City, Utah
 Mrs. Geo. Rugg, Pilot Rock, Oregon
 Mrs. Robert Lockett, Phoenix, Arizona
 Mrs. Kenneth Chalmers, Hartzel, Colorado
 Mrs. Gene Campbell, Phoenix, Arizona
 Mrs. Frank Chapman, Pendleton, Oregon
 Mrs. Gaylord Madison, Echo, Oregon
 Mrs. F. Robertson, Twin Falls, Idaho
 Mrs. Archie Prior, Yakima, Washington
 Mrs. Neil Robertson, Echo, Oregon
 Mrs. Parley A. Dansie, Salt Lake City, Utah
 Mrs. Clyde Story, Goldendale, Washington
 Mrs. P. J. Quealy, Kemmerer, Wyoming

Legislative

Mrs. W. A. Roberts, Yakima, Washington
 Mrs. Leon Contor, Idaho Falls, Idaho
 Mrs. T. J. Hudspeth, Seligman, Arizona
 Mrs. James A. Hooper, Salt Lake City, Utah
 Mr. O. M. Plummer, Portland, Oregon
 Mrs. Eliza Galbreath, Prairie City, Oregon
 Mrs. James Laidlaw, 210 State St., Boise, Idaho
 Mrs. Ralph Thompson, Heppner, Oregon
 Mrs. Alexander Crystal, 1153 Third Ave., Salt Lake City

Promotion

Mrs. H. S. Erickson, Salt Lake City, Utah

Mrs. David Smith, 1721 Herbert Ave., Salt Lake City, Utah

Mrs. Ira D. Staggs, Baker, Oregon
 Mrs. O. R. Ivory, Salt Lake City, Utah

Mrs. Emma Yearian, Lemhi, Idaho
 Mrs. Percy Folsom, Pilot Rock, Oregon

Mrs. S. H. Boyd, Baker, Oregon
 Mrs. Herman Oliver, John Day, Oregon

Mrs. Dean Orme, St. Anthony, Idaho

Mrs. Garish Mahaffey, Grand Valley, Colorado

Mrs. P. J. Quealy, Kemmerer, Wyoming

Mrs. Fred Falconer, Walla Walla, Washington

Mrs. Wayne Stewart, Dayville, Oregon

Mrs. David Jones, Syntex, Oregon
 Mrs. J. B. Adrian, Ontario, Oregon

Mrs. J. R. Eliason, 1606 South 4th East, Salt Lake City, Utah

Mrs. H. A. White, Goldendale, Washington

Mrs. F. E. Farrior, Pendleton, Oregon

Mrs. Vera Gay, John Day, Oregon
 Mrs. Floyd W. Lee, Albuquerque, New Mexico

Mrs. F. S. Gedney, Mountain Home, Idaho

Program

Mrs. O. R. Ivory, Salt Lake City, Utah

Mrs. Ralph Thompson, Heppner, Oregon

Educational

Mrs. Lucy Rodgers, Heppner, Oregon

Mrs. Henry Moss, Salt Lake City, Utah

Mrs. C. W. McNamer, Heppner, Oregon

Historian

Mrs. J. W. Stewart, Yakima, Washington

Press Correspondent

Mrs. Emory C. Smith, 1636 Princeton Ave., Salt Lake City, Utah

Chapter Activities

UTAH

THE annual convention of the Ladies' Auxiliary to the Utah Wool Growers Association was held in Salt Lake City on January 24 and 25, 1938, at the Hotel Utah. The ladies met in conjunction with the state wool growers' association the forenoon of the first day, at which time Mrs. Sylvester Broadbent of the auxiliary, gave an address.

At 2:30 p.m. the executive meeting of the auxiliary was held in the President's Suite, Hotel Utah, with Mrs. Sylvester Broadbent, the president, presiding. She stated that being president of the auxiliary has been a real pleasure and reported that we have four active groups, all doing good work. She also reported on conventions and auxiliary meetings she had attended during the year. Problems of importance were considered, and brief reports were given by auxiliary representatives and committees. There were eleven present.

The annual convention meeting of the Ladies' Auxiliary to the Utah Wool Growers Association was held on Tuesday, January 25, at 2 p.m., in the President's Suite, Hotel Utah. Mrs. Sylvester Broadbent presided and welcomed the large delegation present. We were especially honored to have the following national officers present: Mrs. W. P. Mahoney, president, Heppner, Oregon; Mrs. David Smith, second vice president, Salt Lake City; Mrs. Fred Widman, secretary, Baker, Oregon; Mrs. W. A. Roberts, treasurer, Yakima, Washington; Mrs. J. R. Eliason, director, Salt Lake City, and Mrs. Emory Smith, press correspondent, Salt Lake City. There were also four other delegates from Washington.

Community singing was led by Mrs. Olive N. Hickman and accompanied by Mrs. Lilac Bush.

Invocation was offered by Mrs. Parley A. Dansie.

Mrs. O. R. Ivory, head of the program committee, presented the following numbers: Selections by the Sylvan Trio, accompanied by Mrs. Lilac Bush; greetings by our auxiliary president, Mrs. Sylvester Broadbent; vocal solo by Mr. Lewis Lloyd, accompanied by Miss Marion Lyon; address by Mrs. W. P. Mahoney, National Auxiliary president; solo by Miss Norma Squires, accompanied by Mrs. Lilac Bush; address by Mrs. Kumen L. Jones, president, Cedar City Chapter, "What the Sheep Industry Means to Utah."

Annual reports were given as follows: Mrs. Henry Moss, secretary-treasurer; Mrs. Parley A. Dansie, historian; Mrs. Julian Neff, president, Salt Lake Chapter; Mrs. Briant Stringham, president, Ashley Auxiliary; Mrs. Mark Coddington, president, American Fork Auxiliary; Mrs. Kumen L. Jones, president, Cedar City Auxiliary and Mrs. Don Clyde of the Heber City Auxiliary.

The following executive officers were elected for the ensuing year: Mrs. H. S. Erickson, president; Mrs. Q. G. Crawford, vice president; Mrs. Henry Moss, secretary-treasurer, and Mrs. Alex Crystal, corresponding secretary.

On Wednesday afternoon, January 26, the Utah State Auxiliary gave a very lovely tea and reception at the historic Lion House, at which some 250 ladies participated.

Mrs. Henry Moss, Secretary

YAKIMA

On January 21, 1938, the Yakima Chapter of the Auxiliary to the Washington Wool Growers met in the home of Mrs. W. A. Roberts, with Mrs. S. O. Stewart and Mrs. Neal Robertson assisting. Sixteen members and one guest were present.

Following the business meeting, Mrs. Neal Robertson gave a very interesting travelogue covering her trip in Europe

last summer, especially the British Isles, and an entertaining and instructive paper, entitled "Results of the Sheep Industry in the Yakima Valley," was read by Robert Rennie.

The Yakima Chapter held its annual luncheon and Past-Presidents' Day in the Donnelly Hotel on February 18. Out-of-town guests were Mrs. Edmond Meyer of Ritzville, Washington, past state president; Mrs. Rollo Jackson, of Goldendale, new state president, and six other members from Goldendale and three from Prosser.

Reports of the National Convention held in Salt Lake City were given by Mrs. Meyer and Mrs. Jackson. Mrs. Jackson also named her committees for this year. Mrs. W. A. Roberts, who is the National Treasurer, spoke briefly on the convention and urged all members to give our National President their loyal support.

A delicious luncheon, in which patriotic decorations were incorporated, was served to those present.

Mrs. Archie Prior, Secretary

SALT LAKE

The Salt Lake City Chapter of the Auxiliary to the Utah Wool Growers met February 14, 1938, at the Belvedere Lounge.

A very delicious luncheon, in which a valentine theme was carried out in the food as well as the table decorations, was served to 21 members and three guests. The hostesses were Mrs. Walter Dansie, Mrs. Alex Crystal, Mrs. J. R. Eliason, Mrs. William Oswald, Mrs. Heber Bennion and Mrs. J. Clayton Mitchell.

Mrs. J. R. Eliason explained the Penny Art Fund and its object. Each member present gave the number of art exhibits and art programs they had attended during the past year. It was agreeable to all that a donation be made toward this fund.

Mrs. Eliason moved that the recommendation made by the board that the chapter give a radio program April 5, at 8:30 a.m. be accepted. The motion was seconded and passed. The committee named to take charge of the

program include Mrs. Julian Neff, Mrs. J. A. Hooper, and Mrs. J. Clayton Mitchell.

Mrs. Alex Crystal gave a report of the Music Council meeting. There was an election of officers at this meeting and projects of the administration were discussed, which included the Music Circulation Library.

In a report of the Council of Women, Mrs. Lucy B. Seely told how the women were trying to have the marble games taken out of the drug stores and restaurants. She also gave a report of improvements being made in the public playgrounds. Mrs. Seely made an inspection tour with the women of the county. They visited dairies, butcher shops, bakeries, and the American Linen Supply, where a delicious luncheon was served to them.

Marba Cannon Josephson reviewed "Madame Currie." Mrs. Heber Bennion discussed current events pertaining to the wool industry.

Mrs. Neff closed the meeting by telling the ladies to bring their friends and their spring planting problems to the next meeting.

Mrs. Royal M. Smith, Secretary

OREGON

The Oregon Wool Growers Auxiliary passed the following resolutions at their annual meeting in Prineville, Oregon, January 10-11, 1938:

Be it resolved, that all members of the Wool Growers' Auxiliary support the truth-in-fabric bill and urge all merchants to do likewise. Also urge "Use More Wool and Eat More Lamb."

Whereas, we have enjoyed the hospitality of the citizens of the City of Prineville throughout the convention; therefore, be it further resolved that we extend our thanks to Mrs. Dishman and her committee, Mr. Folsom and all of his committees, Mrs. Fogle of Redmond for her interesting talk, Miss Messenger and her pupils for their splendid musical numbers, and also the Boy Scouts for the courtesy shown all of the guests.

Be it further resolved to thank R. A. Ward of the Pacific Wool Growers for his cooperation in the wool exhibit in Salem.

Be it further resolved, that we express our appreciation to Mrs. Harriet Mahoney, our National President, for honoring our convention with her presence, and encouraging messages given us.

THE LAMB MARKETS

(Continued from page 32)

basis at \$8.25@8.50 per hundred or exactly \$1 per hundred above the low level. This was due to ability to move the product at corresponding appreciation, as wool credits after one rise slipped. All winter these credits have ruled about \$2 per hundred below the corresponding period of 1937 and meat has sustained the entire load. "Give us an additional \$1 per hundred, live weight, in credits and we will be in a position to support the live lamb market on decidedly higher levels," said the "mutton" man of one of the major concerns. "As it is lamb is the costliest meat on the list, with the exception of veal."

Veal entering into consumption at somewhat larger poundage than lamb has been a trade phenomenon. Just why veal calves were worth \$10.50 to \$11.50 per hundred and sold readily during a period when the best lamb trade could do was \$7.25@7.50 is puzzling meat distributors. Lamb wholesaled at practically the same prices as veal yet the latter never accumulated, occasional breaks in the calf market being promptly repaired. Beef was always the lowest cost product in the wholesale markets, steer carcass quotations running from \$12 to \$14.50 when lamb carcasses went to retail trade at \$13@16.50. Pork was actually the highest meat on the quotation list, loins wholesaling at \$16 to \$21 per hundred, according to weight.

However, dressed lamb trade recovered sharply during the last week of February when \$17@17.50 was paid at New York and Boston for "Kosher," the general run of carcasses making \$15@16.50 and, at the new basis, a clearance was not only possible, but effected without difficulty whereas early in the month a limited poundage went to the freezer. With the exception of New England knitting mill centers, consignments of dressed lamb were absorbed without resorting to week-end bargain sales, or transporting an accumulation to New York. A Chicago

representative of one of the major packing concerns took an airplane to Boston at the moment when the bottom threatened to fall out of the market in an effort to locate the trouble. "It was there and I could not do anything about it," he explained subsequently. "Retailers in every knitting mill center cut their usual orders in two. They could sell fish and low grade beef, but lamb did not move. We put a limited tonnage into the freezer, sent the rest over the counter for what it would realize and some of it should have been cheap meat to the ultimate consumer."

Wholesale quotations are somewhat deceptive as the relatively limited poundage of lamb selling at \$17@17.50 per hundred means picked carcasses, "certified" is the trade term. An \$18 trade is not to be given serious consideration, in fact special order trade in any branch of meat distribution is outside the range of prices at which the bulk of the offering moves. Especially in the Greater New York sphere of distribution, an atmosphere of mystery envelops the business owing to the influence of Kosher meat, mostly in transactions of small poundage and broken carcasses. Once a knife is put into a carcass, destination and price are obscure. Much of the meat does not go direct from killer to retailer, but passes through devious channels with a small toll levied at every crook and turn of the path. Mutual expense is freight and incidentals from western slaughter points to the seaboard; thereafter following the product to its final disappearance over the counter would defy the ingenuity of a G-man. That a spell of industrial semi-stagnation in New England is always seriously detrimental to lamb distribution is a statement not open to serious contradiction and on this occasion the rule was operative.

As an immediate result of the movement to stimulate meat consumption over the hinterland lamb consumption

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picked up. This may be ephemeral but it happened. Restaurants in scores of small centers of population specialized in lamb chops, interior butchers reported improvement and less product was forced into the metropolitan areas than formerly. Conception of restaurant influence on meat consumption is lacking and if lamb is to enter into the dietary scheme of the American people to an appreciably greater extent, this is the sphere to be invaded. Restaurant cooks need instruction in serving the product and some improvement in that direction is detected. Interior packers are selling more lamb locally and expect continuance. Much has yet to be accomplished, however, in this arena. George Myers, the Wilson expert, commenting on the box system of consumer meat storage at small interior points remarked: "That is possibly a partial solution of our distribution problem. If farmers will put away a few hundred lamb carcasses in each locality for their own use, they will relieve the urban market of an appreciable poundage that otherwise must come in competition with feed lot output."

The present situation cannot be attributed to excessive current slaughter as slaughter returns contradict the theory that the market is oversupplied, based on normal consumption, which necessitates acceptance of the fact that the trouble lies in the sphere of distribution. The stimulation campaign has undoubtedly been effective, but unless it is to be a mere flash-in-the-pan, persistence is essential. Publicity has not been equal to expectation as newspapers have not attempted to repair the damage effected by the "high meat" hue and cry last fall. A promising start was made, meetings were publicized and public attention attracted by display advertising, although after the initial splurge, the movement showed a die-down tendency. Wholesale handlers did not give lamb its full share of this selling campaign, at least the "mutton men" are of that opinion, their contention being that beef was given undue prominence. Pork was cheap at that juncture and received a

strong "play," loins retailing at 20 to 25 cents per pound over an extended period. In accordance with time-honored custom, housewives insisted on loin chops, ignoring equally palatable and nutritious shoulder cuts. Legs at 28 to 30 cents per pound were "pushed" by chain stores with marked success. Unfortunately chain store distribution is somewhat spasmodic, these vending concerns having a confirmed practice of running "leader" sales on whatever happens to be low in cost relative to the others at the moment and always they are insistent on beating down prices at the cooler, taking advantage of temporary gluts.

Interest now centers on supply prospects the balance of the season. Colorado and Nebraska feeders loaded freely during February but have a sufficient number back to insure liberal runs until well along in April. So far interior packers have been able to refill coolers with nearby western stock that went into farmers' hands last fall, but the long end of the westerns transported from the trans-Missouri country to the corn belt at that time has been worked down to a volume where competition will be lessened. Lambs on feed in northern Colorado, the Arkansas Valley and Scottsbluff sections were below one million head early in March, about 35 per cent having been shipped up to that time. Relief from corn belt competition during March will be welcomed as the immediate future of prices depends on weekly production. California is already being scouted by packer buyers and reports from Kentucky and Tennessee are that the new crop will move two to three weeks ahead of its usual schedule.

Feed lot shearing will be the lightest in trade history as Michigan is practically out of that game and the big barns adjacent to markets will not send more than a handful. Lambs have been coming fat all winter and killers have taken every animal with a meat covering, low grade meat finding a ready outlet.

Consensus of opinion is that the low level of the winter was uncovered at mid-February, theory being bolster-

ed by the fact that both cattle and hogs have made substantial gains meanwhile. However, the stage is not set for substantially higher prices on any class of livestock and in the case of live muttons wool is a brake on the wheel. That the market of the corresponding period of 1937 will not be repeated is a cinch bet. By the end of March, 1937, standard lambs were selling at \$12.60@12.85, shorn lambs \$10.75@11 and ewes \$5@6.

Lamb feeders are going through one of the most disastrous periods in the history of the industry. Much of the loss has fallen on farmer feeders who in a burst of enthusiasm invested at prices insuring loss in the finality of the operation. What influence this will exert on feeding lamb prices next fall is not predictable.

J. E. Poole

Omaha

ALTHOUGH receipts were the smallest for this time of year, since early in the century, or 1902 to be exact, lamb prices continued downward during the first half of the month. After mid-month values rallied somewhat and the closing days' sharp advance boosted top prices to \$8.50.

Receipts here at Omaha, which numbered 105,511 head, were smaller than many other years even though the numbers of lambs on feed were considerably increased from last year. Around the market circuit the runs for the month totaled in excess of the corresponding period of last year.

The wool situation, which in itself could do much to improve the price of lambs, seems deadlier than the proverbial doornail. Pelt credits after perking up a bit along during January seemed to lose whatever buoyancy they had and now are back around the opening point of the year. The continued rumors of reciprocal tariffs and favored nations only aggravate an already chaotic wool trade.

The possibilities of inflation are also not to be overlooked as there seems to be more and more talk of inflation in some way or another. The de-



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sterilizing of gold by the United States government would seem to tend in this direction. It seems that the powers in Washington are disturbed over the low commodity prices and would like to do something about it; so there appears to be some possibility of a bolstering effect emanating from there. In that case, prices during the late feeding season might work higher.

While the expected increase in the numbers of extremely heavy lambs has not been entirely fulfilled to date, the supplies here for the most part were classed in the heavy brackets. The possibility of weights becoming excessive as the season advances, accompanied by an increased discrimination, may yet be a factor to contend with.

Most of the offerings sold on the market during the month were from

feed lots in western Nebraska, Wyoming and Colorado.

The supply of feeder lambs was scarce during February but a good demand was evident for anything of feeder flesh. Trade was on a more rational basis than for the preceding month when for a period quotations on feeders ranged higher than on fat lambs. The spread between fat and feeder lambs remained fairly narrow, however, until the advance late in the month which left top feeder quotations of \$7.75 around 75 cents under the ruling fat lamb top.

Aged sheep were in fairly broad demand by both breeding interests and packer buyers. Slaughter ewe prices worked up, reaching \$4.60 which was the highest since late last November.

James A. Lonsbury

Around the Range Country

(Continued from page 10)

deposits. Livestock and forage are mostly good, and doing well.

Bakersfield (Kern County)

Weather conditions during February have been fair, but feed was rather short compared to a year ago. We had a good rain two weeks ago that is bringing the grass right up (February 27). Very few sheep have been fed during the month and livestock in general are in good condition. Baled hay is selling from \$15 to \$18 a ton.

I believe there are a few more breeding ewes in Kern County this year, but lambing percentages seem to be small. Winter losses have not been heavy, just about normal.

Coyotes are increasing, due I believe to the fact that we haven't enough trappers in this part of the country.

I do not think many herders are inclined to kill game out of season or without a permit.

Adrien Souche

Laytonville

(Mendocino County)

Our three weeks of lambing was accompanied by terrible storms and heavy losses, but the weather is excellent now (February 26).

F. C. Clarke

OREGON

The first half of the month was mild, and the last half had about normal temperatures. Precipitation was frequent and rather heavy, especially over western counties. Wheat is good, and grass is making good growth over western sections. Lamb losses have been lighter than usual. Livestock are in good shape, having had plenty of forage and feed.

Harper (Malheur County)

The size of the breeding bands is about normal; losses are smaller by 2



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per cent than in the previous winter. Hay is selling at \$8 a ton in the stack (February 26).

There has been no liquidation of sheep outfits here that I know of.

We have had two trappers working in our community and fewer coyotes are in evidence.

J. C. Medlin

WASHINGTON

Temperatures were near or somewhat above normal most of the time. Precipitation was frequent, and generous as a rule, especially in the western portion. Wheat is good to excellent. Early lambing is progressing satisfactorily. Pasturage is improving steadily over the western portion and forage is fairly good in the east. Live-stock are doing well nearly everywhere.

Yakima
(Yakima County)

Conditions on the range since February 1 have been ideal, with very little blustery weather and no cold spells. While 17 above was recorded once for a few minutes, around 28 above is the coldest it has been in Yakima during February. This is probably our mildest winter in all recorded time. It follows that less feed has been required as a result. Alfalfa hay is \$9 a ton in the stack and much of it yet remains for sale (February 28).

About 95 per cent as many ewes are bred to lamb in 1938 as in 1937. Winter losses are much lighter than a year ago as the weather has been given no reason for loss, there have been no compaction losses, and no disease reported.

Some of the outfits, three or four in number, that were hit hard in 1929 have been struggling along since with help of the financial institutions, but cannot make it, owing to high interest charges, and are being liquidated.

It is our experience that sheepherders do not kill out of season, except predatory animals which are attacking sheep. There are exceptions, of course.

I just received a letter from a man in Maine who reports ewes at \$5 now, compared with \$10 last fall and wool

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around 19 cents against 38, so he wants an end to farm and other experimenting so he can again afford to experiment with sheep. So do we all.

C. H. Van Amburg

IDAHO

Mild weather persisted, with considerable cloudiness, being very fine for livestock and range interests. Precipitation occurred frequently, though it was not heavy as a rule. There has been enough for livestock on winter forage, and most animals are in thriving condition. Winter grain is good. Conditions were favorable for early lambing.

Leadore (Lemhi County)

We have had a very mild winter and the sheep are in better condition than usual for this time of year (February 26). The prospects are better than for several years for both feed on the range and a good hay crop, as we have more snow than normal. Numbers of sheep, however, are below those of last year. I think the number of breeding ewes is about 10 per cent short of that of 1937. However, winter losses have been considerable lighter than they were a year ago.

Alfalfa hay is selling at \$8 a ton, but there is very little to be had.

We have had very good results in this section from both the bounty system and the work of the government trappers in the control of coyotes.

I have run sheep for 20 years and to my knowledge my herders have never killed game of any kind out of season. I think herders kill very little game.

F. J. Whittaker

Jerome (Jerome County)

We do not run sheep on the range here in the winter months; they are all fed hay. Due to the mild winter, however, it has not been necessary to feed as much as usual. To the best of my knowledge, about the same number of ewes are bred as in 1937. There have not been so many old ewes in

the bands, which, along with the mild winter, has made for lighter death losses.

I think the increase in coyotes is due to the fact that we have no bounty on them.

I do not think that sheepherders as a rule kill very much game on the national forests.

William F. Weigel & Sons

Twin Falls (Twin Falls County)

This has been a very mild winter. Lambing ewes are probably slightly fewer in number this year than in 1937.

It would be a great help to many sheepmen here if the Federal Land Bank would make loans on range lands. We think you are doing a good work in trying to get the government to put up a fund for wool loans.

Ed. Wells

MONTANA

Most of the month was abnormally cold and snowy, being unfavorable for livestock nearly everywhere. The last week was milder and sunnier, and more favorable. Ranges were snow-covered most of the month, and heavy feeding was necessary. Winter grain was good, under the snow. Livestock are in only fair shape as a rule, some on feed being satisfactory.

Missoula (Missoula County)

Weather and feed conditions have been about the same on the range during February as in the past two years. We have fewer sheep on feed this winter. We bought 270 tons of alfalfa hay in the stack at \$8 a ton. Losses this winter were considerably smaller than last year. However, our breeding bands are less than half as large as they were last year.

One reason that we have more coyotes, I believe, is because there is less stock on the range.

A herder might kill some game, but I have never known one yet to waste the meat.

W. H. Seiffert

WYOMING

Most of the state had mild weather most of the month, though the northern counties had cold weather most of the time. Light to moderate snows came frequently. Shed lambing was favored in central sections. Winter grains are greening. Windy weather damaged ranges in eastern counties, requiring additional feeds, and resulting in some shrinkages of livestock. Feeding also continued in the northern sections. Most of the state needs moisture.

Buffalo (Johnson County)

This has been a very good winter here; very little cold weather and lots of moisture.

Sheep have done well on the range, with very little feeding being necessary. Alfalfa hay has been selling around \$7 and grain and other concentrated feeds are cheap (February 18).

No sheep are changing hands at present. With the price of wool and lambs at a low level, no trading basis in breeding sheep has been established. Coming yearlings are being offered here for April first delivery at \$8 a head, or out of the wool in June for \$7 a head. These are crossbred lambs and will weigh about 85 pounds out of the wool.

There is some two hundred thousand pounds of 1937 wool still held here, with no offers being made on it at this time. No effort has been made to contract the 1938 clip.

Due largely to the efforts of the government hunters, coyote numbers are being held down here.

Sheepmen generally are satisfied with the administration of the Taylor Grazing Act. So far as I know all of the public lands here are leased under Section 15 of this act.

R. L. Greene

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